

# *South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges*

## *“Grandparent’s Day Sunday” – September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

**Prelude:** “Lost Without Your Love” – Christie Coatsworth

### **Welcome & Announcements:**

Good morning folks. Last Sunday Afternoon concert in North Buxton was great. We had about 50 to 60 people. It was great to hear the music on what would normally be a very busy Sunday Labour Day afternoon. Thanks to the Buxton Next Generation for their help and music.

Last week should have been our “first of the month” Food Donation. I understand our local Food Banks are doing very well using up the food collected on the May 16<sup>th</sup> Miracle. The United Way is collecting socks and underwear for the homeless (mainly men) this fall before the cold weather hits us. Usually socks and underwear are not available at the Thrift Stores, hence the collection.

You may have noticed that last Sunday’s Service was recorded at St. Andrew’s. Today’s Service is being recorded from Talbot Street. Next week will be from St. Luke’s as we are celebrating St. Luke’s 119<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup>. Recording from the Churches gives us a chance to test out recording once we are live back in the church buildings. This way we can keep those who are not comfortable or able to come in the church building a sense of Sunday Worship. We still are planning for Thanksgiving Sunday in our Church Building depending on current Health Regulations.

Continue to keep in touch with others and to share our websites; at [southbuxton.ca](http://southbuxton.ca), and [talbotstreet.ca](http://talbotstreet.ca)

Thank you to Christie Coatsworth for our music this morning. Thank you to Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides.

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

If you wish – grab a candle to use while we share our services. The flame of the Candle reminds us of the light of Christ that collects us as the faith community, “We are One in the Spirit”. Thanks be to God.

### **Call To Worship:**

**Eric:** Come into worship, remembering the land, and the place where you drew your first breath.

*(silence)*

**People:** Come into worship, acknowledging the lands and places which have and continue to break open the gift of God’s presence. *(Silence)*

**Eric:** Come into worship, trusting and anticipating those places where God may yet bring you.

*(silence)*

**People:** Let us come into worship, knowing these soils and lands hold signs of revelation and hope.

**Eric:** Thanks be to God – Creator of all soils and lands.

**Hymn: VU 649 “Walk With Me”**

*Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build the land that God has planned  
where love shines through.*

- 1 When Moses heard the call of God  
he said, 'Lord, don't send me.'  
But God told Moses, 'You're the one  
to set my people free.' R

*Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build the land that God has planned  
where love shines through.*

- 2 Now Peter was a most unlikely  
man to lead the flock;  
but Jesus knew his holiness  
and he became the Rock.

*Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build the land that God has planned  
where love shines through.*

- 3 Young Mary Magdalene was sure  
her life could be much more,  
and by her faith she dared to let  
God's love unlock the door.

*Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build the land that God has planned  
where love shines through.*

- 4 And when you share your faith with me  
and work for life made new,  
the witness of your faithfulness  
calls me to walk with you.

*Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build the land that God has planned  
where love shines through.*

**Opening Prayer:**

**Teach our hearts to be fertile soil for Your Word, O Lord, and bless us with the abundance of your love; with fruit of the earth, seasonable weather, and great love for each other. Teach our hearts to become fertile soil, so that Your Word may grow in each one of us and produce fruit of the Spirit. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

**Scripture: Psalm 139: 7 -12**

**Where could I go to escape from your Spirit or from your sight? If I were to climb up to the highest heavens, you would be there. If I were to dig down to the world of the dead you would also be there.**

**Suppose I had wings like the dawning day and flew across the ocean. Even then your powerful arm would guide and protect me. Or suppose I said, “I’ll hide in the dark until night comes to cover me over.” But you see in the dark because daylight and dark are all the same to you.**

**Message: “Seeing God in the Land / Soil”**

We are in the Season of Creation. So today we reflect on our relationship with the land. Land is such an important endowment to us humans. It gives us life, a place of home, and investment in material worth. Being a rural and mainly farming community, the land gives us the bounty of the harvest. Land is the place where we stand, build of homes, and value as important to our material wealth. We use land for the greatest moments in our lives, but unfortunately we also use land for our brutal moments, such as in Europe during both World Wars. This year we are trying to see God in Creation – today’s focus is where do we see God in the land, or in the soil?

If we were to look at Genesis 3, we read the story of Adam and Eve and their confused actions over the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This very tree shows us the good and evil found in the land and soil. Adam and Eve’s decision transforms their relationship with the very earth they walk. After eating the fruit of the tree, the land no longer brings forth food to Adam easily. Just as Adam and Eve have a relationship with God and the other creatures - they also have a relationship with the earth. Adam and Eve and all who have heard their story, learn that the land is affected by what we do. The land responds to what we do.

Our Psalm reading today reminds us as we are being knit in a mother’s womb. We could recognize that the Earth is a kind of womb. We as humans came from the earth in the Creation Story. We are created by God as earth-beings. Adam is Hebrew for “earth-being”, as “adamah” means earth. The Psalm reminds us of the challenge, “Where can I go from your presence?” Where are we looking for God?

Do we look for God in the land or in the soil? We can see God’s creation at work in the microorganisms that are at work readying the soil for next year’s crop. We as humans understand that when we die, we go back into the earth. I remember my dad taking up a handful of soil on the farm, and instantly knowing by the feel what was needed. Was it ready to work, to plant, or did it need nourishment of some kind. Being on a Dairy Farm and having a herd of over 100 milking cows we had a lot of manure waste. We use liquid manure, and adding that to a field offered many benefits; moisture, nutrients and bacteria that readied the land. After taking off the first cut of hay, we would spread liquid manure to kick start the second crop. Almost immediately the grass fields took off, especially in a dry month. If it was too wet, we would wait until the soil had dried out a bit, otherwise you wasted all the nutrients, if they washed away.

What we do as landowners make a difference to the land we stand upon. Doing events that have no consideration for the land can have drastic results, such as what we see in waste dumps and the fields of war, in the rainforests that we cut down and the wetlands that we drain. Whatever we do to the land either benefits the land or destroys the land.

What would a truly just and repaired relationship look like with the land? We were in Sudbury about 10 years ago and we stopped in the Science North Museum to learn more about nickel mining. Here's what we learnt

#### VIDEO: Environmental Remediation

What a transformation. That is in Sudbury – what's happening around here? East of Charing Cross, we have the Ridge Landfill. Regardless of what they do – chances are we will find out at some time in the future, we should have done this or that. But when you look at how they look after the area surrounding the land, it's so much more than what townships did for their landfills scattered through the Municipality. Each year we learn more, maybe from cities like Sudbury, or maybe from the Environmental Engineers who work for Waste Management, many of them trained at Ridgetown Campus of the University of Guelph. Chatham Kent looks after Chatham Kent.

Where do we see God in any of this? In Sudbury, we found that the land will grow trees and grass with some help. In Chatham Kent we see a much needed societal land fill being managed with grass, trees and the best landfill soil procedures known to us today. Does this speak of "forgiveness"? God's forgiveness to us humans, as God's children?

Take a moment to sit back and think of your own life. How have you repaired your relationship with yourself, with your neighbours, or maybe even with your family? Are you aware of someone else who has made a real disaster of their life and with forgiveness has cleaned up and are again a great value to their community? Did they find God?

Alcoholics Anonymous in their 12 step program point to God's forgiveness and God's help to beat the pull of Alcohol – The first step is to admit we are powerless over alcohol, the second step is to believe that a power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity, third step is to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, fifth step is to admit to God and ourselves our wrongs, take a moral inventory of ourselves, and the sixth step is to be ready to have God remove our defects. Other steps include prayer and self examination.

The 12 step program can work for humans, yet it can also work as humans work to restore those lands we have damaged. We know as humanity we are not perfect, and there are places where we even today are hurting the earth, and the earth responds by being barren. The earth can be a like a mother who does not look after herself during pregnancy, and terrible things can happen – If the earth is our womb, and we are not looking after it, what expectations do we have of our future?

That's who we are as the church! We offer change – even transformation. We help others work towards change, then transformation. Jesus has taught us all about transformation. To transform ourselves and others, we as the church reach out to make a difference. We offer our buildings for AA meeting and other addiction services. We reach out to the homeless with socks and underwear. We send food and supplies to the Food Bank and Soup kitchens. We help out with a Chaplaincy

Program, School Breakfast Programs and Christmas Food Baskets to name a few, because those programs change people's lives. We as the Church are in the business of Transformation. God shows us this in the recreation of the land, and also in the recreation of lost people.

Where do we see God in the land or in transformation? Church Communities such as ours make people holy, make people complete and make people whole. Creating with God and God continues to create new by Transformation. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

**Hymn: VU 306 "God of the Farmlands"**

- 1 God of the farmlands, hear our prayer,  
God of the growing seed,  
O bless the fields, for to your care  
we look in all our need.
- 2 God of the rivers in their course,  
God of the swelling sea,  
where we must strive with nature's force,  
our guardian ever be.
- 3 God of the dark and sombre mine,  
God of its hard-won store,  
your love through toil and peril shine,  
your strength our hope secure.
- 4 God of the city's throbbing heart,  
God of its industry,  
bid greed and base deceit depart,  
give true prosperity.
- 5 Source of authority and right,  
God of all earthly power,  
to those who govern grant your light,  
your wisdom be their dower.
- 6 God of the nations, women, men,  
God of each humble soul,  
we seek your gracious aid again:  
O come and make us whole.

**Invitation to Share Our Gifts:**

**Eric:** God provides us with learning from unexpected places. We are blessed by the beautiful nature that surrounds us including the farmlands that are bursting with great harvest. In all our endeavours we can see God's work and blessings for us. We give back of our blessings to be the unexpected way we share God's love with others. Let us give in love.

### **Offertory: VU 541 “Praise God From Whom...”**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

### **Offertory Prayer:**

**Giver of life, we are but temporary inhabitants living on Earth for a while. May our gifts of our hands, hearts, and tears contribute to the flourishing of your creation and your larger vision for life and wholeness, for this generation and for those to come. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.**

### **Hymn: VU 400 “Listen To Your Children Praying”**

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

### **Pastoral Prayer:**

**Eric:** We come to this time of prayer as those who live in memory and hope of the story of creation, where God draws us up from the soil into life. O Lord, Hear our prayers.

**People:** **With that memory in mind, we come now to pray to the God who works re-creation and redemption from the ground up. O Lord, Hear our prayers.**

**Eric:** We pray for all grieved by death – whether a loved one held dear or strangers we have never met who have perished in conflicts or natural disasters. O Lord, Hear our prayers.

**People:** **We pray for comfort and strength as remains are returned to the earth in hopes that life will be drawn up from the earth as you have in Christ. O Lord, Hear our prayers.**

**Eric:** We pray for all who wander across many lands in search of home. For refugees fleeing war or famine; for the homeless, cast off by the loss of a job, or struggles with mental illness. O Lord, Hear our prayers.

**People:** **May our prayers for such ones be joined in commitment to minister to and with them. O Lord, Hear our prayers.**

**Eric:** We pray for all who work to protect Earth against the ravages of natural disaster, or greed-driven indifference, or acts of violence in warfare without regard for what becomes of Earth beneath the weapons and the destruction and the chemicals. O Lord, Hear our prayers.

**People:** **Stir in us a willingness to speak and act beyond the safety of study groups for the sake of your good creation. O Lord, Hear our prayers.**

**Eric:** We pray for the faithfulness of the church. For the church, too, is caretaker of the land we hold – even as we are called to be forerunners of the land and realm you promise. O Lord, Hear our prayers.

**People:** **May our practices of and relationships with the land, as individuals and congregations, be in keeping with the values of your commonwealth. O Lord, Hear our prayers.**

**Eric:** We pray for eyes and spirits open to your presence – especially in the places where we may feel you distant or removed, even in the places where we might try to flee from you. O Lord, Hear our prayers.

**People:** **Even in those shadowed lands, you accompany us upon the way. You bring healing. You wait upon us. You love us with a love that will not let us go. O Lord, Hear our prayers.**

**Eric:** All these things we pray in Jesus' Name as we pray his prayer:

*Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven,  
Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

**Benediction:**

**Eric:** As we leave today, may we walk gently and be close enough to hear you when you speak, O Lord - and may we be held in your arms, now and forever more.

**Go Now in Peace:**

**Go now in peace, never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**Postlude:** "Jupiter, From the Planets" – Christie Coatsworth