

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

St. Luke's 121st Anniversary Service – September 18th, 2022

Prelude: Debi Guy and Joe Simpson - “What a Wonderful World”

Welcome & Announcements:

Lunch to follow today's service.

St. Andrew's Broasted Chicken Dinner Take Out! – This afternoon from 4:30 to 6 pm.

Talbot Street Church Board is this Thursday at 7 pm by Zoom.

SBPC Official Board Meeting is next Wednesday September 28th, at 7 pm at St. Luke's.

Thank you for your support of all our services, which are posted on our websites - Southbuxton.ca and Talbotstreet.ca .

Thank you to Debi Guy and Joe Simpson for today's music and Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides, and Annette presenting today's service.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: The sun shines warm upon our backs.

People: **The rains fall softly upon our fields.**

Eric: We hear the thunder roar.

People: **We hear the wind blow.**

Eric: We listen for God.

People: **God's voice can shatter the trees and cause us to tremble in fear.**

Eric: Then God flashes into our awareness. In the whirl of chaos, we seek steady calm and peace.

People: **We come together in worship today asking God for a steady calm and peace for St. Luke's into the future.**

Eric: Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn: VU 122 “All Glory, Laud and Honour”

*All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

- 1 You are the King of Israel,
and David's royal son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and blessed one.

*All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*R

2 The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.
*All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

3 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.
*All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

4 Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious king.
*All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

Opening Prayer:

People: God of wind and rain, God of lightning and snow, God of wildfire and flood: sometimes we are overwhelmed by the forces of nature around us - that seem to rail against us. It also happens for us with our Rural Church. People sometimes say that storms and disasters are sent to teach us things, or even as punishment. Help us to discern the truth, and to know that you, Creator God, invite us to co-create with you, that the world might be a place where all can live in harmony and safety. May St. Luke's be the Church in our community that is the place of harmony and safety. Amen.

Children's Story:

Children's Hymn: VU 579 "The Church is Wherever..."

- 1 The church is wherever God's people are praising,
singing God's goodness for joy on this day.
The church is wherever disciples of Jesus
remember his story and walk in his way.
- 2 The church is wherever God's people are helping,
caring for neighbours in sickness and need.
The church is wherever God's people are sharing
the words of the Bible in gift and in deed.

Scripture: Psalm 29

All you angels in heaven, honor the glory and power of the Lord! Honor the wonderful name of the Lord, and worship the Lord most holy and glorious. The voice of the Lord echoes over the oceans. The glorious Lord God thunders above the roar of the raging sea, and his voice is mighty and marvelous. The voice of the Lord destroys the cedar trees; the Lord shatters cedars on Mount Lebanon. God makes Mount Lebanon skip like a calf and Mount Hermon jump like a wild ox. The voice of the Lord makes lightning flash and the desert tremble. And because of the Lord, the desert near Kadesh shivers and shakes.

Reflection: "The Power of God"

As we hear these words of God's strength and power from today's Psalm – it can get us to think about those times through the history of St. Luke's where God's power had kept us in this community - doing God's work. We may remember times when storms have rocked our world. We may remember times when the rains have fell hard among our community. We may remember times when the floodwaters rose, and we were afraid of drowning. We may remember those times when God has guided us faithfully as God's people – pointing us towards actions that promote a better future for our loving and caring community.

Hearing these words of Psalm 29 can spring our imagination – but these words do not capture the power of God in the way thunder, lightning, and strong winds do. When we are in the middle of the storm, we may look around to discern what may be coming at us. When the storm is over we offer prayers of thanks that we are safe. We also realize that divine wisdom is beyond what we can describe and explain. We think about what we might have been able to do differently so we are not so afraid. We look to others who calmly sit through the storm and enjoy the show, noise and wind. That may get us to think about how can we trust and follow the Holy Spirit, which creates, sustains, and redeems Creation – including almost 7 billion humans.

When we talk about God, we often talk about the role God plays in our lives. Psalm 29 is thought to be one of the earliest psalms, which praises God, who is supreme and demonstrates this in the way nature bends and breaks at the sound of God's voice. The book of Psalms offers many roles for God: creator, healer, provider, saviour, judge, protector. Divine balance and fullness are found in the book, as in the diversity of human experience over a lifetime.

Psalm 29 also challenges us in the midst of our fear, our pain, our celebrations; not to forget that God is sovereign. We are challenged today in the celebrations of our Anniversary to continue our ministry to the South Raleigh Community. May we remember that God is sovereign, and that God will work with us when we are doing God's work. We have a job to do as we keep the community in our midst.

In today's instant communication world, we as humans observe floods and storms not just in our community, but all over the world. It seems we have helped with recovery which has just begun, when across the country or somewhere else in the world, another place is hit. We are asked to help there also. In Southern Kent, we are blessed that we seldom experience devastating floods, fires or major storms. This gives us an opportunity to help others.

Psalm 29 honours the storm king, the Lord of the flood. The poet praises God's power, and also praises God's divine control over potential chaos. This is a Psalm of praise rather than a Psalm of lament. Our fears diminish as we offer praise. Lament can hold us in our fears. Let us give praise!

The power of the storm reminds us of God's power. It also reminds us that God is ever-present in our times of pain and discomfort. We seek to use the wisdom God has given us to navigate these times. We also use our wisdom to check on our own roles in creating storms in our lives – whether personally, family and even community. Can we trust that God is here and empowers us to find our way through any storm – weather or human made?

The power of our Rural Church in our Rural Community calms people as they go through life's challenges. Our faith is strengthened and empowered when we are in the midst of a storm. We share that faith and empowerment with others as we share the power and presence of God.

When has God's power helped us at St. Luke's throughout the history of this church? The story shared last week was that the youth at St. Luke's were getting into trouble, as they wanted to play baseball and would practice wherever they were at – not always the best choice of places. One Sunday adults talked about this problem, and it was talked about some more at a card game later that week. For the next weekend, an area farmer had donated a corner of his field. The men built a backstop and St. Luke's had a Ball Diamond and a Ball Team. Baseball was the community event for the area young people. Each local church had their own ball team – this was before area parks had teams. Each church would challenge another church to a Ball game that would make fun for the young and old alike.

What storms have rocked our world? One fall in 1967 (I believe) an area farmer suffered a farm accident. Area farmers gathered to harvest his crops and get them into the barn. Several years ago, the same process happened when an area family was busy at the London Cancer Clinic with their son. When his wheat was ready, area farmers gathered their combines and trucks – harvest the fields and took the grain to the elevator.

We may remember times when the rains have fell hard among our community. I think of the generation that has passed on these past 24 years. Solid and faithful parishioners - many being

your parents or grandparents. Yet at each change of the guard we said goodbye with a community of love and support for the family. We served an “after the Funeral” Luncheon, which allowed the community to come together to say goodbye and to support one another. This is the best example of sharing in community in times of need and sorrow.

We may remember times when the floodwaters rose, and we were afraid of drowning. We felt the pressure about a dozen years ago and investigated options. We found that we could share ministry with Talbot Street. This arrangement required changes in how we do church, but we made those changes and have been able to stay afloat. In the years between, we have become wonderful and caring friends.

We may remember those times when God has guided us faithfully as God’s people – pointing us towards actions that promote a better future for our loving and caring community. What I remember in recent history is when some folks came to St. Luke’s because of the Children’s program here. Some of those children, now young adults, had opportunities to sing in church, and to be part of the Christmas Eve Choir. Teena Sterling led our Church Choir and Sunday music for so many years. On Christmas Eve, Teena loved to sing in the choir versus leading it, so she stepped aside to have Debi play and help with the music. Teena worked with many of those young folks to have them sing during the services and during special times, such as Christmas Eve. To me, St. Luke’s has been adaptable to the needs of its members, but also to the needs of the South Raleigh Community.

May God continue to guide us faithfully as God’s people – pointing us towards actions that promote a better future for our loving and caring community. God is always with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 675 “Will Your Anchor Hold”

- 1 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,
when the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift or firm remain?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

- 2 It will surely hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers tell that the reef is near;
though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow.

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

- 3 It will surely hold in the floods of death,
when the waters cold chill our latest breath;
on the rising tide it can never fail
while our hopes abide within the veil.

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

- 4 When our eyes behold, through the gathering night,
the city of gold, our harbour bright,
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,
with the storms all past for evermore.

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: The Holy Spirit leads us to be the Church, and to give to be the Church in our community. St. Luke's building has been here at the Bloomfield and the Fifteenth for the past 121 years reaching out into the community. Let us give and be the Church.

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.

Music: Joe Simpson: "Give Thanks"

Offertory Prayer:

People: Creator God, there is nothing that we can build or create that lasts forever, but when we respond to your voice, offering newness of life, we are invited to share generously in the work of love and justice. Bless these gifts, and St. Luke's Ministry to our community. May we offer people the promise of peace. In Jesus' Name we give and offer thanks. Amen.

Hymn: VU 400 "Lord, 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 & Lord's Prayer:

Closing Hymn: VU 331 "The Church's One Foundation"

- 1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation by water and the Word;
from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be, his living servant people, by his
own death set free.
- 2 Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
one charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, 'How long?'
But soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
- 5 We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,
and share through faith communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Music: Joe Simpson: "Precious Lord"

Blessing:

Eric: May God's divine power assure us we are not alone. Let the rain bless us and our Church with new soil and growth. May we share God's love to all, 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: Debi Guy & Joe Simpson

Prayers: - Please include these people in your prayers this week.
We offer prayer for these people each Sunday morning. "In the Spirit - We Are One".

Cancer: Kenny

Martin and Family
Paul
Cheryl
Reg and Mary Jane