

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Twenty First after Pentecost – September 25th, 2022

Prelude: Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

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

Next Sunday is Worldwide Communion Sunday.

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

Thank you to Christie Coatsworth for today's music and Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: Praise; - Praise is where our worship begins and ends.

People: Praise is what moves under our feet and stirs our hearts.

Eric: Praise is what soars across the skies and causes us to question all that we thought we knew.

People: Praise is what we were made for. Praise for Earth. Praise for this life. Praise for each other.

Eric: Let us praise the name of God and lift our heads in wonder and delight!

Opening Hymn: VU 220 "Praise to the Lord,..."

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health
and salvation.
Come, all who hear: brothers and sisters draw near,
joining in glad adoration.
- 2 Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen how all you needed has been
met by God's gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work
and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who out of love will befriend us.

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from God's people again:
gladly with praise we adore him.

Opening Prayer:

People: Great galaxies and tiny insects; giant gum trees and redwoods and tiny plants growing in tundra and desert; a speck of sand, and planets beyond our comprehension – all of this is the stuff of your making, O God. We can feel so very small in the context of all you have made, and yet you care for us – you love each of us as if we were your favourite. Help us acknowledge you in the world around us, celebrate your presence, and honour you in all we do. Amen.

Children's Story:

Children's Hymn: VU 365 "Jesus Loves Me..."

- 1 Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
in his love we shall be strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.
- 2 Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, 'Let them come to me.' R
- 3 Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live. R

Scripture: Proverbs 8: 22 - 31

From the beginning, I was with the Lord. I was there before he began to create the earth. At the very first, the Lord gave life to me. When I was born, there were no oceans or springs of water. My birth was before mountains were formed or hills were put in place. It happened long before God had made the earth or any of its fields or even the dust. I was there when the Lord put the heavens in place and stretched the sky over the surface of the sea. I was with him when he placed the clouds in the sky and created the springs that fill the ocean. I was there when he set boundaries for the sea to make it obey him, and when he laid foundations to support the earth. I was right beside the Lord, helping him plan and build. I made him happy each day, and I was happy at his side. I was pleased with his world and pleased with its people.

Reflection: “God the Creator of All”

In Proverbs today, we hear the story of Wisdom. Wisdom was with God before the world was created. Wisdom is also known to us as the Holy Spirit. There are so many things that happen within God’s great creation that is so necessary for life. Some things that happen are so very wise that the writer contributes its actions to Wisdom. We understand wisdom as being thoughtful and wise. We contribute wisdom to our elders. They have been there and done that, and have a story to share about being there.

Wisdom expands our horizons. It opens our spirit to the limitlessness of possibilities in Creation. Wisdom broadens our understanding of reconciliation. Wisdom invites us to see past our small worlds and see the bigger picture. God is the creator of all, founder of the infinite, redeemer of the heavens and Earth, sustainer of the Cosmos; all that has its matter and spirit within these boundless realms, sing God’s praise.

The book of Proverbs is a collection of thoughts about what is good or true in life. What is ethical behaviour. What is valuable and why. How to judge good character. What holds power in the marketplace and in relationships. How to teach children to be wise and truthful.

Proverbs finds Wisdom in everyday life. Yet shows us that Wisdom’s origins is before the earth was formed. Wisdom has always been with us. The writer of Proverbs shares with us the grandeur of the universe, and also the tiniest things found in everyday life. This reminds us of all the ways God’s wisdom is in our lives.

Today’s reading of Proverbs 8, takes shape in a poem, indulging in the details of our shared origins. Throughout the book, the writer explains Wisdom can be seen everywhere, great and small - in the ant as much as the eagle. Wisdom is personified as a being who was in the “beginning of days” and in the “day-by-day.” There is no stage in the history of Creation where Wisdom was not delighting and interacting with it.

It’s easy to confine ourselves to our small worlds and busy ourselves tending only to the needs of daily life. Today’s scriptures remind us that the goodness of Creation began light years away from where we live; that each star and planet is created to praise God, as is each mountain, tree, and animal on Earth. All we need to do is to take time to notice the glory of the night sky and of the grass soaked in morning dew. Although their beauty may cause us to see God in our faith, today we

are challenged to see those everyday things as the created body praising God. May we reach out when we take the time to notice the day to day events, to add our voices to creation's praise to God.

It's easy to confine ourselves to our small worlds and busy ourselves tending only to the needs of daily life, especially as we struggle to keep our rural churches open and part of the bigger community. It becomes easier to look inward and reflect on all our woes and suggest that others do not care for us. Many times, it is after the Rural Church closes that the community realizes what the Church had offered the community. Yet if we step back and look at the bigger picture, we can see where we continue to be part of our larger community. Although we do have struggles we are still here, sharing faith with each other, praising God and sharing wisdom with our community.

We as the Rural Church reach out not only to our community but to communities around the world – sharing with the Mission and Service, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and other partners. We learn about challenges in other countries, usually affecting their Rural communities.

We pray for others in tough situations; whether it be around the world, or here in our local community. Regardless of what we might think is holding us back – we offer prayer. We pray for those in our community that are sick and hurting. We visit the sick. We feed the hungry. We offer help when needed. We are part of our Rural Community; physically and metaphorically.

We do find Wisdom in our elders. Folks who have experienced life through the lens of deep spiritual faith. In their faith, they offer pieces of wisdom that can keep us the faithful, and us the church, grounded knowing we live in faith, and not so much in absolutes. The wisdom of the elders of the Rural Church is in step with the culture of the Rural Community. That wisdom is not foreign to the Rural Community, as may be found in Government or Regional policies.

Through the act of prayer and belief in our faith of our personal relationship with God, we can offer so much to this rural community. We know there is something bigger than you or I. we know our future is in God's hands. We believe we can make a difference in and through prayer. Because we know we are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 296 "This Is God's Wondrous..."

1 This is God's wondrous world,

and to my listening ears
 all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
 of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
 the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
 in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

3 This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
 that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
 Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
 God reigns, let earth be glad!

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. 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.

Offertory Prayer:

People: All that exists is yours, great God. Now we give a portion to your church to continue doing your work in the world. Take these gifts and use them. We pray in Christ's name. 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 453 "Out of Deep, Unordered Water"

- 1 Out of deep, unordered water
God created land and life;
world of bird and beast, and later,
twosome people, husband, wife.
*There is water in the river bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver: there is water in the font.*
- 2 Water on the human forehead,
birthmark of the love of God,
is the sign of death and rising;
through the sea there runs a road. R
- 3 Standing round the font reminds us
of the Hebrews' climb ashore.
Life is hallowed by the knowledge:
God has been this way before. R

Blessing:

Eric: The Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit are present all around us. May we feel them, know them and let them in. Take them with you as you go out into the world, 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: Christie Coatsworth

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
Cheryl
Chris
Paul
Reg and Mary Jane
Dave
Margaret**

**Bill
Jane
Donna
Elizabeth
Donna
Elizabeth
Martin and Family**