

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 5th, 2021

Prelude: “Oh What a Beautiful Morning”, Richard Rogers – by Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Good morning! Welcome back to church (although we are still online) and welcome to St. Andrew’s for today’s Service, celebrating Labour Day weekend and returning to church (and work) after the summer break.

We pray for those displaced and injured in Wheatley’s explosion last week. There is a “Go Fund Me” page set up – if you wish to help (<https://ca.gofundme.com/f/help-wheatley-disaster-relief-fund>). They have already raised \$ 37,500. Also keep the folks in Haiti in our prayers as they recover from the earthquake and hurricane. We may be collecting at a later date.

Our local Food Banks are getting ready to send kids back to school and are short of school appropriate snacks. You are welcome to make a cash donation to your church to be forwarded. St. Luke’s is matching donations received, and Becky Preston has offered to purchase and deliver snacks to Merlin, Wheatley and Blenheim Food Banks.

This weekend, folks in North Buxton are celebrating Labour Day with online genealogy on Friday and family baseball games yesterday. Today you can watch the Church Service in video and tomorrow the video of parade memories. Check out links at www.buxtonmuseum.com/hcoming/

Upcoming Board Meetings; this Wednesday night, September 8th is St. Andrew’s Church Board Meeting – at the church at 7 pm. A week later on Wednesday September 15th will be the South Buxton Official Board Meeting – in person at St. Luke’s at 7 pm. Talbot Street Official Board Meeting will be Thursday September 16th at 7 pm – in person at Talbot Street.

Next Sunday’s service will be from Talbot Street. Next Sunday September 12th is known as Grandparents Day – so I invite you to send me your favourite pictures or videos that make you so happy you are a grandparent – which is a hint to have yourself included in the picture.

Next Sunday afternoon is an open house for Don Maris’ 90th Birthday. The Open House will be from 2 to 4 pm in the pavilion at the Kinsmen Park. Donations will be accepted to help the Christmas Shoe Box Program. You can park at the Merlin United Church and walk through the fence another 100 yards to the pavilion. Everyone is welcome.

St. Luke’s Beef Supper Take Out is on Saturday September 18th from 5 to 6 pm. Cost is \$25 – call Marjorie 676-5461 or Susan 676-4042.

St. Luke’s 120th Anniversary Service is in two weeks on Sunday September 19th. The service will be online.

The Chatham Kent Alzheimer Society is hosting a series of online Zoom Fall workshops – Thursday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Also check out their Tuesday Talks – by Zoom last Tuesday of each month from noon to 1 pm.

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

Welcome back and Thank you to my production crew; music by Christie Coatsworth, and the slides by Tracey Major. I couldn't do it without you!

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: We are like circling hawks dancing with joy for life.

People: God, you invite us to join in the dance!

Eric: We are like the faithful soil nourishing each life we touch.

People: You invite us to join in the caring.

Eric: We are like the swift stream singing our thanks for life.

People: You invite us to join in the song.

Eric: We are like the blazing star bringing wonder to life.

People: You invite us to join in the wonder.

Eric: We are like the voices of Creation praising the God who shapes life:

People: You invite us to join in the praise.

Opening Prayer:

Generous God, creation is your song of love. May we stop to listen and open our hearts to the melody so that we might join in the singing. Amen.

Opening Hymn: B 6 “This is My Father’s World” (Video)

This song is a video showing pictures of God’s beautiful creation – our world. Imagine as the music starts to play that we are bringing elements to the front of the church, such as; water, soil, seeds, flowers, small trees, maybe even animals.

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world, He shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world, the battle is not done,
Jesus who died shall be satisfied
and earth and heaven be one.

Scripture: Genesis 1: “In The Beginning” - by Alice, Evelyn, Charlene, Carol, Gail and Annette.

In the beginning there was nothing. No up or down. No near or far. No yesterday or tomorrow. Only God. Here. Now. Then came the idea. The idea came from God and was part of God, yet it seemed to have a life of its own.

From that idea all things came to be. Light and darkness. Time and space. Energy and matter. Everything needed to make a universe.

God gathered them together and set to work. Out of swirling gas clouds, fiery stars ignited with a whoosh. Planets and moons spun together, and galaxies danced like snowflakes on a winter night. It must have been wonderful – dreaming, imagining, making all those things that had never been made before.

God could see that it was all good. The idea kept growing. On the edge of one galaxy – a sun. Whirling around the sun – a planet. Small. Lifeless. Covered in dark waters. Nothing special at first. Then the breath of God came like a breeze and ruffled the surface of the waters.

Something wonderful happened. Deep in the seas, there was life. Simple at first, but then more complex. It was as if God could simply not get enough of dreaming up new forms of life. They filled the seas. They walked on the land. They flew in the air. Flowers bloomed and insects buzzed. The little world teemed with life and colour, scent and sound.

God looked at everything with delight. You know how it is when you make something. You picture it in your mind, but sometimes your own creation can surprise you. It was all so good – so wonderful: lovely patterns hidden everywhere, the cleverness of living things who rode on the wind and waves to make their homes in every imaginable place.

God enjoyed every bit of it. Day and night. Light and dark. Land and sea. Sky and earth. Sun and moon. Maybe God even laughed out loud at the sight of dolphins leaping, or birds doing funny dances to attract each other.

This is too good to keep to myself, thought God. So God made another kind of living thing, one even more like God than all the others. This living thing could love. Laugh. Delight in beauty. Think. Imagine. Wonder. Choose. Maybe even have ideas of its own.

When God was finished working, it was time to rest. Glad to be part of such a wonderful world, the new creature rested too.

Message: “God’s Wondrous World”

We are all part of God's abundant creation. Our very DNA reminds us that we create with God, and we too delight in what we have made together. With these thoughts in mind, we live in hope; that today is different from tomorrow, as today is different from yesterday. May we create in faith to make our world a better place for all of creation; human, animal, fish, birds, even microorganisms. Instead of taking things for granted, may we see creation with deep reverence.

Genesis 1 is the first story of the Bible. It starts with God's creation of all that there is, including humanity. This is a great reminder that whatever we see in life that holds power over us; whether it would be earthquakes and hurricanes, or the Taliban or an abusive partner, or cancer or another disease – whatever, Genesis reminds us of God's eternal power to create all that is and it is good!

Genesis 1 is the story about the creation of earth and the creation of living things. In Chapter 2, humans are created and care for the earth. This is the reminder that as humans, we are to celebrate the birth of Mother Earth and finds ways to care for her. In many areas of care we do a bang up job. In other situations we should find better ways of caring for Mother Earth. After all it is our home - the only home we can physically have.

In the Bible, it says “the earth was barren with no form of life; it was under a roaring ocean covered with darkness. But “the Spirit of God was moving over the water” the birth of the earth could be compared to our birth from the womb. The story in Genesis shares the birth of the earth, a formless embryo – waiting to be born. The Creator hovers as a spirit – like a midwife – over the waters of the womb.

The waters burst; On the third day, after separating the light from the darkness and the waters above from the waters below, Creator Spirit says, “Let the waters burst and the dry ground appear.” The Spirit does not say “Let there be Earth,” but “Let the dry ground appear!” God calls the dry ground, Earth. The verb “appear” is frequently used to describe the revelation or appearance of God or an angel. The birth of Earth is a sacred moment, a revelation from the mysterious creator whom we know as God.

After the birth, Creator Spirit animates Earth so that she can bring forth vegetation of every species. Earth is explicitly transformed from a dry embryo to a living planet. The animation reveals a divine force; Earth has an instinctive spiritual desire. Our role, as human custodians, is to be in tune with that instinctive desire and to keep the Earth alive and well.

Earth becomes like a Mother when the waters around Earth and the sky above Earth become filled with living creatures. Mother Earth becomes a co-creator of life, the Mother of all living. Mother Earth is still the co-creator of life billions of years later to this very day.

We humans came along after Mother Earth has co-created life for all living things. Adam as the first human is made from the ground of Earth. Adam is Hebrew for, “Son of the red earth”. Eve is the Hebrew word for “living” – which is understood as “full of life and mother of life”.

On this Mother Earth Sunday, we celebrate our identity as humans and relations with all living creatures on Mother Earth, and the amazing reality that God’s Creator Spirit continues to express spiritual presence in the natural world. No matter what we think holds power over us, we humans are created special because God’s Creator Spirit created us and formed us out of Mother Earth. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: B 1 “For the Beauty of the Earth” – Video

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
 God of all, to thee we raise
 this our hymn of grateful praise.

- 2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and field,
sun and moon, and stars of light,
 God of all, to you we raise
 this our hymn of grateful praise.

- 3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
 God of all, to you we raise
 this our hymn of grateful praise.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: We as the church are a necessity to the wider community that we serve. We give, to have both a physical and spiritual presence to those in need. 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:

People: Generous Creator, you have opened your hands and placed so many gifts into ours. Receive what we offer as a sign of our thankfulness. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: This morning's Prayer is also in video - with the following words:

Eric: Holy One, You breathed over the waters and shaped life in all its diverse beauty.

People: We are faithful witnesses to your abundant love for all creation.

Eric: We give thanks for the light and the darkness...

People: We give thanks for the land and the waters...

Eric: We give thanks for plants of all kinds...

People: We give thanks for the moon, the stars and the sun...

Eric: We give thanks for all the creatures of the sky...

People: and of the water...

Eric: and of the land...

People: We give thanks for this marvelous creation and echo your words: “It is good!”

Eric: We ask you to breathe your wisdom into us, that we might respect the gift of planet Earth, our home.

People: May we see your presence in all the wonders that surround us.

Eric: As we share together Jesus' words...

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.

Blessing:

Eric: May the joy of soaring birds be yours.

May the peace of star-filled nights be yours.

May the hope of sprouting seeds be yours.

May the strength of flowing rivers be yours.

May God's love for all creation be yours, 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: "This Is My Father's World" – English Melody– Christie Coatsworth

Prayers: - Please include these people in your prayers this week.

We have offered prayer for these people each Sunday morning just before the Zoom Service.
It was suggested to share these names with the total group – as "In the Spirit We Are One".

Cancer: Tom
Allan
Louise
Zoe
Becky
Earl
Barry/ Marsha
Francine
Rick
Vera Brown's
Family
Alison