

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Mother's Day – May 10th, 2020

Prelude: “Always Take Mother’s Advice” – Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Welcome to our Mother’s Day Service. Today is the day we honour the mothers in our lives. It’s a great day to share stories of how our mothers mean so much to us. Mother’s can be our maternal moms, or grandmas, but can also be that special aunt of neighbour that has been a mother to us. A mother is someone who is special in our lives. Someone who has shared their life with us. Happy Mother’s Day to all those special mothers.

Moms are usually the ones who check up on us. Today is a great day to check on your mom – if you can. Our communion today offers us a window of sacred time where the Holy Spirit gathers us together as one – therefore connecting us spiritually with those gone before us – including our mothers, grandmothers and special mothers.

Continue to keep in touch with others and to share our websites; at southbuxton.ca, and talbotstreet.ca.

We are blessed once again to have Christie Coatsworth offer the music for today’s service. Thank you Christie. Today we have a collection of readers sharing the scripture – thank you to each and every one of our readers. They make our services even more special in such challenging times. Today’s Mother’s Day Service will include communion – so join us with your cracker and juice.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

If you wish – grab a candle to use while we share these 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: Lord, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks for our mothers.

People: **We are grateful that you chose to give us life through them, and that they received the gift of life from your hands, and gave it to us.**

Eric: Thank you for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth.

People: **We thank you for the women who raised us, who were our mothers in childhood.**

Eric: Whether birth mom, adopted mom, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else, we thank you for those women who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain.

People: **We pray that our lives may reflect the love they showed us, and that they would be pleased to be called our moms.**

Today for our scripture reading, we took Proverbs 31, and asked children to read for their moms. So after the greeting, they will share their piece of the scripture. Enjoy moms.

Scripture: Proverbs 31: Selected Verses (By various children of mothers and grandmothers)

Brian: (Charlene) My mother is a good mother who is hard to find, and worth far more than diamonds. Her family trusts her without reserve, and never has reason to regret it. Never spiteful, she treats her family generously all her life long.

Tom: (Marion) Mom is special; she shops around for the best yarns and cottons, and enjoys knitting and sewing (and baking). She's like a trading ship that sails to faraway places and brings back exotic surprises.

Chris: (Madeline) My Mother is up before dawn, preparing breakfast for her family and organizing her day. She looks over a field and buys it, then, with money she's put aside, plants a garden.

Peter: (Margaret) My mom gets up first thing in the morning, she dresses for work, rolls up her sleeves, eager to get started. She senses the worth of her work, is in no hurry to call it quits for the day.

Tracey: (Janet) My mom is skilled in the crafts of home and hearth, diligent in homemaking. She's quick to assist anyone in need, reaches out to help the poor.

Paige: (Carol) My Grandma doesn't worry about her family when it snows; their winter clothes are all mended and ready to wear. She makes her own clothing, and dresses in colorful linens and silks.

Dee: (Martha) My mom is greatly respected when she deliberates with the city officials. She designs gowns and sells them, brings the sweaters she knits to the dress shops.

Mom: (Gwen) My mom's clothes were well-made and elegant, and she always faced tomorrow with a smile. When she spoke she had something worthwhile to say, and she always said it kindly.

Annette: (Leonie) My mom keeps an eye on everyone in her household, and keeps them all busy and productive. Her children respect and bless her; her husband joins in with words of praise: "Many women have done wonderful things, but you've outclassed them all!"

Eric: (Ruth) My mom is a woman to be admired and praised - is the woman who lives in the Fear-of-God. Give her everything she deserves! Embellish her life with praises!

Song: VU 580 "Faith of our Mothers" (Verse 2) – played by Christie Coatsworth

Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real:
faith of our mothers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.

Reflection: "My Good Mother"

For me personally, my mom was the one in our family that was connected in faith. Mom has always been involved in the church, as Sunday School Teacher, with the United Church Women, on different Boards and Sessions, and later as the Presbytery Representative and the London Conference Delegate. My mom was the editor of the Oxford Presbytery Mouse – their monthly newsletter for many years, up until about 4 years ago, when Presbyteries closed. Mom was at London Conference on her 90th Birthday – as Conference always was the end week of May. My mom is the most faithful, connected person I know. Mom has been an inspiration to me in my ministry.

Mom and I talk about what happening in the United Church – she keeps an interest in what’s new and exciting, and how the recent changes in the United Church structure is affecting our Rural Churches. Mom has been a member of the Rural Life Committee in London Conference for over 30 years, and has been very involved in rural issues with the Oxford and Ontario Federation of Agriculture, holding many offices throughout the years.

Mom is now at Park Place in Woodstock and will be 92 this May 25th. She chose not to drive a few years ago. Until the pandemic, Mom walked to Knox Presbyterian Church a couple blocks from her residence. She is today using an older cell phone to Zoom into our services, and to listen to our services and a couple of other churches services each week. Hi Mom! Happy Mother’s Day!

I zoomed with mom earlier this week for her to do the reading about her mother, Gwen – my grandmother. My grandmother was very faithful in her church in Drumbo. My mom’s dad was from Woodstock and was a High School teacher. Her mom came from Carp - close to Ottawa. They met and were married in Carp on August 24th, 1927. My mom was born a year later.

As mom tells the story, my grandfather traveled out to Meadow Lake Saskatchewan, to see his older brother Warren, who received a section of land based on his World War 1 service.

Mom tells the story of her mom asking her mother-in-law Mary, if Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan was a place to take 2 small children and for her to be with her husband. Mary said, “Sure, it’s okay”. So my grandmother and my mother, who was about 3 years old, and her brother, who was one, took the train 3,000 km to Northern Saskatchewan.

Video of Mom

You've seen a picture of my grandmother Gwen at our wedding in August of 1988. Grandma was 84 years old at that time. Grandma was always dressed to the nines, with the latest design of clothing. Grandma usually was quite blunt about the girlfriends I introduced her to. "Annette is a keeper", she said.

So I was telling you about those children who offered scripture... Well they didn't just want to read scripture. They too, wanted to talk about their moms. So I put their talks together and have added a few more. Enjoy!

Video of Mother's Day.

We are blessed in so many different ways. Everyone shared their mother's faith and love and care for their family. Mothers love us, no matter what! Today we get the privilege to share our moms and those who have moms to us, and what they mean to us. God has given us an abundance of love and care from many people in our lives, including our mothers and grandmothers. Today we thank God for our moms as we remember them. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Song: VU 280 "Mother and God" – played by Christie Coatsworth

Mother and God, to you we sing:
wide is your womb, warm is your wing.
In you we live, move and are fed
sweet, flowing milk, life giving bread.
Mother and God, to you we bring
all broken hearts, all broken wings.

Offering:

Eric: In this time of uncertainty, our churches rely on you and me to stay viable and to be essential in our community. We need your prayers and we need your support. Continue sending your monthly cheques to your church treasurer. All the information to donate is on our websites at southbuxton.ca and talbotstreet.ca.

Offering Music: VU 541 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

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.

Offering Prayer:

Jesus you break bread and we recognize you; you are the fire that burns within us. Use us, and these gifts to light the world. We pray in your name. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer:

We pray for older moms whose children are grown - Grant them joy and satisfaction for a job well done.

We pray for new moms experiencing changes they could not predict - Grant them rest and peace as they trust you for the future.

We pray for pregnant women who will soon be moms - Grant them patience and good counsel in the coming months.

We pray for moms who face the demands of single parenthood - Grant them strength and wisdom.

We pray for moms who enjoy financial abundance - Grant them time to share with their families.

We pray for moms who are raising their children in poverty - Grant them relief and justice.

We pray for step-moms - Grant them patience, understanding and love.

We pray for moms who are separated from their children - Grant them faith and hope.

We pray for moms in marriages that are in crisis - Grant them support and insight.

We pray for moms who have lost children - Grant them comfort in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We pray for moms who gave up their children for adoption - Grant them peace and confidence as they trust in your providence.

We pray for adoptive mothers - Grant them joy and gratitude for the gift you have provided.

We pray for girls and women who think about being moms - Grant them wisdom and discernment.

We pray for women who desperately want, or wanted, to be moms - Grant them grace to accept your timing and will.

We pray for all women who have assumed the mother's role in a child's life - Grant them joy and the appreciation of others.

We pray for those people who are grieving the loss of their mother - Grant them comfort and hope in Christ's resurrection.

Today we pray for all mothers and those who were like mothers to us.

We pray for those who have lost loved ones, and for others who miss the companionship of someone during this time of isolation.

Today we pray for our front line workers and supporters. We thank them for all they have done and will continue to do, until this pandemic is over.

We think of those in hospital and those who need medical care. Be with those on their medical journeys.

In the name of the risen Christ, we pray his special 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."*

Invitation to Communion:

Eric: God, we come in the long days of risen joy of the communion of the saints, because Christ has passed by –

People: the dust is stirred up, the stones put down, the great stone rolled away.

Eric: We come to share the life-giving meal of Christ

People: Everyone is welcome. Come and join us!

Eric: Christ writes with a finger on our lives, a sacred story; beginning with an ancient wind blowing over the waters, and God's love shaping mud in a garden - to a new creation when storm and waves were stilled, and God's love walked in a garden again.

People: And like the disciples at Passover, the table hosts in Emmaus, and the house churches in Jerusalem, we too pray that the Spirit rests upon each of our tables, our gifts of bread and cup, our need for protection and our work in the earth, so that the loaf of broken love, may grow great with blessings, and this holy cup overflow with hope for all the world. Amen.

Eric: The meal is now ready!

Distribution of the Bread and the Wine:

(we can all partake as one)

Eric: Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

(we can all partake as one)

Eric: Jesus Christ, the Cup of Love.

Easter Prayer after Communion:

We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness; that wine poured out replenishes; that time spent with the Risen Christ and one another, is gift and grace. Amen.

Benediction:

Eric: Beloved God, we thank you for mothers and the women in our lives. Bless them today as they have blessed us! As we go today, let us share the love that we have received, with everyone we meet, in the name of Jesus, now and forever more.

Postlude: Be On the Level with Mother (and the World Will Be Square With You) – Christie Coatsworth