

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Seventh Sunday of Pentecost – June 23rd, 2024

Prelude:

Welcome & Announcements:

St. Andrew's is hosting their Strawberry Social with Broasted Chicken today at the Merlin hall. Tickets are \$30 each. Take out available.

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

Thank you to Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: God does not let us be put to shame, nor does he let our enemies triumph over us.

People: **The Lord our God listens to the cries of his people. He is swift to answer those who call upon his name.**

Eric: The Lord our God is strong and sure to save us when we are in distress.

People: **God's steadfast love endures forever. His faithfulness extends to our children's children.**

Opening Hymn: VU 333 "Love Divine, All loves Excelling"

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Opening Prayer:

Most Loving and Compassionate God; we come before you in humble adoration knowing our need for your grace, your mercy, and your strength. Grant us these things by the power of your Holy Spirit. Illuminate our hearts and minds and souls that we might better follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ our Saviour and more worthily magnify your most holy name. Help us celebrate what you have done for us and what you have promised to us - both now - and forevermore. Amen.

Children's Story:

Children's Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Children's Hymn: "Only A Boy Named David"

Only a boy named David
Only a little sling
Only a boy named David
But he could pray and sing
Only a boy named David
Only a rippling brook
Only a boy named David
But five little stones he took.

And one little stone went in the sling
And the sling went round and round
And one little stone went in the sling
And the sling went round and round
And round and round
And round and round
And round and round and round
And one little prayer went up to God
And the giant came tumbling down.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 9: 9 - 20

The poor can run to you because you are a fortress in times of trouble.

Everyone who honors your name can trust you, because you are faithful to all who depend on you.

You rule from Zion, Lord, and we sing about you to let the nations know everything you have done.

You did not forget to punish the guilty or listen to the cries of those in need.

Please have mercy, Lord! My enemies mistreat me.

Keep me from the gates that lead to death, and I will sing about you at the gate to Zion.

I will be happy there because you rescued me.

Our Lord, the nations fell into their own pits, and their feet were caught in their own traps.

You showed what you are like, and you made certain that justice is done, but evil people are trapped by their own evil deeds.

The wicked will go down to the world of the dead to be with those nations that forgot about you.

The poor and the homeless won't always be forgotten and without hope.

Do something, Lord! Don't let the nations win. Make them stand trial in your court of law.

Make the nations afraid and let them all discover just how weak they are.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17: 1 - 49

The Philistines got ready for war and brought their troops together to attack Judah. The Philistine army had a hero named Goliath who was from the town of Gath and was about three meters tall. Goliath went out and shouted to the army of Israel: "Why are you lining up for battle? I'm the best soldier in our army, and all of you are in Saul's army. Choose your best soldier to come out and fight me! If he can kill me, our people will be your slaves. But if I kill him, your people will be our slaves. Here and now I challenge Israel's whole army! Choose someone to fight me! Saul and his men heard what Goliath said, but they were so frightened of Goliath that they couldn't do a thing.

David's father sent David to see his brothers where they were fighting the Philistines. David obeyed his father. The army of Israel and the Philistine army stood there facing each other. David left his things with the man in charge of supplies and ran up to the battle line. While David was there, Goliath came out started boasting as usual. David heard him. Saul sent for David, and David came. "Your Majesty," he said, "this Philistine shouldn't turn us into cowards. I'll go out and fight him myself!" "You don't have a chance against him," Saul replied. "You're only a boy, and he's been a soldier all his life." Sir, I have killed lions and bears with my bare hands, and I can kill this worthless Philistine. He shouldn't have made fun of the army of the living God! The Lord has rescued me from the claws of lions and bears, and he will keep me safe from the hands of this Philistine. "All right," Saul answered, "go ahead and fight him. And I hope the Lord will help you." David picked up his shepherd's stick. He went out to a stream and picked up five smooth rocks and put them in his leather bag. Then with his sling in his hand, he went straight toward Goliath. When Goliath saw that David was just a healthy, good-looking boy, he made fun of him. "Do you think I'm a dog?" Goliath asked. "Is that why you've come after me with a stick?" He cursed David in the name of the Philistine gods and shouted, "Come on! When I'm finished with you, I'll feed you to the birds and wild animals!" David answered: You've come out to fight me with a sword and a spear and a dagger. But I've come out to fight you in the name of the Lord All-Powerful. He is the God of Israel's army, and you have insulted him too! Today the Lord will help me defeat you. Then the whole world will know that Israel has a real God. Everybody here will see that the Lord doesn't need swords or spears to save his people. The Lord always wins his battles, and he will help us defeat you. When Goliath started forward, David ran toward him. He put a rock in his sling and swung the sling around by its straps. When he let go of one strap, the rock flew out and hit Goliath on the forehead. It cracked his skull, and he fell facedown on the ground. David defeated Goliath with a sling and a rock. He killed him without even using a sword.

Message: “David and Goliath”

The story of David slaying Goliath has been used for generations to open the imagination of children to the LORD’s power.

As Israel’s story continues, David does not appear until the prophet Samuel secretly anoints him king at a private family gathering, which was last week’s story, but these stories start in the middle of 1 Samuel, as a book of the Bible.

Though Saul is still on the throne, David knows that he is Israel’s next king. When summoned to soothe anxious King Saul, David knows that Saul’s days as king are numbered.

David has no idea what awaits him when his father, sends David out to check on his brothers on the battlefield. When the opportunity presents itself to improve David’s financial status and become part of the king’s family, David does not hesitate.

When David arrived, there was this buzz about Saul looking for someone to face the Philistine giant Goliath. The reward would be great; wealth, relief from taxes, and marrying the king’s daughter! The job was risky, but the reward was more than worth any potential risk, even death at the hand of the Philistine.

David’s oldest brother couldn’t hide his jealousy or disdain for his youngest brother, David. David had come to the battlefield on behalf of his three elder brothers. Yet, the oldest brother gladly scolds David when he inquired about the reward for defeating Goliath. David’s response is, “What have I done now? It was only a question”. David has heard these insults before, likely from all his brothers. With his eye on the prize and being led by God, David volunteers for the job.

Forty days of Goliath’s taunts had done their work. None of the Israelite fighters wanted to take on Goliath. His mere height along with his battle gear made him a scary and dreadful enemy.

War was not just about troops fighting one another. Taunting was a form of combat in war to preserve your reputation and avoid physical combat. It was hoped that a match between two leaders would settle the matter. This is exactly what is happening in today’s story.

Neither Goliath nor David held back. Like daggers, verbal jeering cascade back and forth across the battlefield. Goliath laughs at the thought that he is challenged by this pep squeak. “I deserve to be met by my equal, not some boy”. But this isn’t any boy! This boy is the future King of Israel.

David shouts right back, “I have killed lions and bears and you will experience the same fate, having dared to insult the ranks of the living God.”

Even when Goliath says, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” David is not intimidated. Goliath continues, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.”

Goliath’s insults were not the “kick in the teeth” that Goliath intended them to be. David was used to insults. He heard them regularly from his brothers. David is confident that Goliath is no match for him. Although Goliath didn’t know it, he is a marked man. It is simply a “no-contest”. David has God!

David quickly replies to turn Goliath’s words against him. Goliath’s threat to David as an individual, becomes David’s threat to Goliath’s entire army, “I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. All you Philistine’s will know, “the Lord does not save by sword and spear”. This battle is the Lord’s and the Lord will give you into our hands today”.

Where did David get his confidence? For sure, it didn’t come from his family. Looking back, no one thought of David, when Samuel visited his family looking for Israel’s next king. Jealous and ungrateful, his brothers considered him of no account when he brought them provisions.

Likely David found solace in his responsibilities as a shepherd, keeper of the family’s sheep. With no companions except God and the sheep, he finds his confidence in God.

This is not just any battle. This is a battle for the life and soul of Israel, an obscure nation, one that was barely on the horizon. When David wins with only a slingshot, it is a victory not just for David, but for the fledging nation as well. It is confirmation that God is David’s silent partner in this fight. It is also a confirmation

that God has chosen a winner to be the next King of Israel. This battle sets the stage for David's future as the beloved King of God's Chosen People.

Israel's story would continue. David's story would continue. Though there would be many twists and turns, for both David and Israel, the matter is settled. The connection between David and Israel would last for generations. David is known throughout biblical narratives, the connections with David would last through monarchy, Babylonian exile and return, rebuilding and Roman defeat. Even beyond the biblical narrative, the connection would remain. We still hold up David and his stories to our children and to ourselves today, 3,000 years later.

Not only would the connection last, this story of David and Goliath would become part of the cultural landscape. The world loves the David and Goliath story and any victory when the underdog wins. With God we are victorious, even in the most difficult situations.

We must remember God is on our team! We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 378 "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies,
but take the dimness of my soul away.

Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength and mind?
I see your cross: there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek you and O let me find!

Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame,
the baptism of the heaven-descended dove,
my heart an altar and your love the flame.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: David led when called – imperfectly, but obedient to God. Let us live into and share the gifts God has given us – our talents, our resources, and our very lives. Let us give in love!

Offertory: VU 544 “In Gratitude and Humble Trust”

In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

Offertory Prayer:

People: For the gift of talents you provide Compassionate and tender God. We thank you for all the blessings that you pour out upon your family – for all that we receive as your sons and your daughters. Bless these offerings that we now give to you - use them in your work of building up your church and doing the work of your kingdom in our world. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Chorus to Prayer: 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:

Closing Hymn: VU 562 “Jesus Calls Me”

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, 'Christian, follow me.'

Long ago apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, 'Christian, love me more.'

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
'Christian, love me more than these.'

Jesus calls us: by your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Blessing:

Eric: Go in peace, love and care for one another in the name of Christ; now and forevermore.

Closing Chorus: VU 602 "Blest Be the Ties That Bind"

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Postlude:

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

