

# *SA, SL, TS and DSM United Churches*

*Sixth after Pentecost – June 30, 2024*

## Prelude:

## Welcome & Announcements:

Thank you for your support of all our services, which are posted on our websites - [Southbuxton.ca](http://Southbuxton.ca) and [Talbotstreet.ca](http://Talbotstreet.ca) .

Thank you to Christie Coatsworth for our music this morning. Thank you to Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides.

## Lighting of the Christ Candle:

## Call to Worship:

**Eric:** In our sanctuaries, or virtual in our home, in the countryside, we say: God is great and so worthy of our praise!

**People:** **God's praise and reputation extend to the far corners of Earth. Let the people rejoice!**

**Eric:** Let our own community rejoice, saying:

**People:** **This is God, our God, forever and always! God is the one who will lead us even to the very end.**

**Eric:** Come, let us worship.

## Opening Hymn: VU 334 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem,  
and crown him, crown him, crown him,  
crown him Lord of all.

O seed of Israel's chosen race  
now ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace  
and crown him, crown him, crown him,  
crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, you martyrs of your God,  
who from his altar call;  
praise him whose way of pain you trod,  
and crown him, crown him, crown him,  
crown him Lord of all.

Let every tongue and every tribe,  
responsive to the call,  
to him all majesty ascribe

and crown him, crown him, crown him,  
crown him Lord of all.

O that, with all the sacred throng,  
we at his feet may fall,  
join in the everlasting song,  
and crown him, crown him, crown him,  
crown him Lord of all.

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Gather us together in your Holy Space today. Hear our prayers, receive our praise, equip us with your word, and then, as you sent out the Twelve, send us out to share your message of hope, healing, and redemption. Amen.**

### **Children's Story:**

### **Children's Prayer and Lord's Prayer:**

### **Children's Hymn: "I Have a Friend Who Loves Me"**

I have a friend who loves me,  
who loves me, who loves me.  
I have a friend who loves me  
and Jesus is his name.

I have a friend who helps me,  
who helps me, who helps me.  
I have a friend who helps me  
and Jesus is his name.

### **Responsive Psalm: Psalm 48**

*The Lord God is wonderful!*

He deserves all praise in the city where he lives.

**His holy mountain, beautiful and majestic, brings joy to all on earth.**

Mount Zion, truly sacred, is home for the Great King.

**God is there to defend it and has proved to be its protector.**

Kings joined forces to attack the city, but when they saw it, they were terrified and ran away.

**They trembled all over like women giving birth or like seagoing ships wrecked by eastern winds.**

We had heard about it, and now we have seen it in the city of our God, the Lord All-Powerful.

**This is the city that God will let stand forever.**

Our God, here in your temple we think about your love.

**You are famous and praised everywhere on earth, as you win victories with your powerful arm.**

Mount Zion will celebrate, and all Judah will be glad, because you bring justice.

**Let's walk around Zion and count its towers.**

We will see its strong walls and visit each fortress.

**Then you can say to future generations, “Our God is like this forever and will always guide us.”**

**Scripture: Mark 6: 1 - 13**

Jesus left and returned to his hometown with his disciples. The next Sabbath he taught in the synagogue. Many of the people who heard him were amazed and asked, “How can he do all this? Where did he get such wisdom and the power to work these miracles? Isn't he the carpenter, the son of Mary? Aren't James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon his brothers? Don't his sisters still live here in our town?” The people were upset because of what he was doing. But Jesus said, “Prophets are honored by everyone, except the people of their hometown and their relatives and their own family.” Jesus could not work any miracles there, except to heal a few sick people by placing his hands on them. He was surprised that the people did not have any faith.

Jesus taught in all the neighbouring villages. Then he called together his twelve apostles and sent them out two by two with power over evil spirits. He told them, “You may take along a walking stick. But don't carry food or a traveling bag or any money. It's all right to wear sandals, but don't take along a change of clothes. When you are welcomed into a home, stay there until you leave that town. If any place won't welcome you or listen to your message, leave and shake the dust from your feet as a warning to them.” The apostles left and started telling everyone to turn to God. They forced out many demons and healed a lot of sick people by putting olive oil on them.

**Message: “Shake the Dust from your Feet”**

For the past month we have been talking about leadership - leadership in the church and leadership in the wider community. As anyone knows, leadership is tough work. Unexpected obstacles come up, circumstances change, and we as leaders are responsible for keeping it together. Today's story shows us how the great leader Jesus, dealt with those unexpected obstacles and circumstances. If people are not ready – move on. This outlook helps us to stay the course, as we share the good news with others. We succeed in the work we do, when we follow God, and use the measures that God has provided to us as the Church.

Jesus' credibility and ministry is questioned by his own hometown, we are told in today's story. These people have known Jesus the longest, and they also know Jesus before he entered into ministry. They focus on Jesus as the 12 year old reading scripture in the temple, instead of noticing the work that Jesus is currently doing. They are more focused on Jesus' family roots. Jesus responds to their rejection by limiting his ministry in that area. “They are not ready yet”, Jesus says. Jesus could only do a few miracles there, because they did not believe. Miracles require belief, so it seems.

Jesus then sends the disciples out into the surrounding villages and towns. It seems that Jesus' very disciples react in the way we might react. “Where do we go?” “What do we say?” “What do we take with us?” “What if the people won't listen to us – after all we are not you, Jesus?” Jesus gives those questioning disciples the authority to act in Jesus' place. Jesus tells them to take nothing with

them. This command forces the disciples to rely on the hospitality of those to whom they are preaching. This command could also be interpreted as a way of living by faith. It may also be interpreted as a call to a life of simplicity in what we know as the monastic tradition. It may be possible that other travelers, such as salespeople and philosophers, came to town and requested financial enrichment from their preaching and talking. Jesus disciples are different. They bring the Good News in return for hospitality.

Jesus' hometown crowd didn't think much of him – they said he was behaving way above his rank. Why weren't they happy a local had made good? Human nature is like that, when people we know change, we don't hesitate to remind them of the shortcomings of their past as if their changing is offensive to us. But God's story is one of transformation; shepherds become kings, fisher-folk become evangelists. God desires authentic change.

Nelson Mandela may be one of the best examples of leadership in our modern world. When Nelson was released from prison after 27 years, one might wonder how he would address his fellow citizens. Would he be defiant? angry? bitter? seeking revenge? What kind of leader would emerge after such a lengthy confinement?

Mandela addressed tens of thousands of supporters who gathered at Cape Town City Hall, beginning with these words: "Comrades and fellow South Africans, I greet you all in the name of peace, democracy and freedom." "I stand here before you not as a prophet, but as a humble servant of you the people..." Mandela is revered as a humble, resilient leader seeking peace, unity, and reconciliation for the people of South Africa.

A lesson that biblical and contemporary leaders struggle to learn, is it is on the other side of our failures, where the lessons are apparent. Today, we see Jesus and the disciples' reliance on God, and the importance of keeping our relationships with God in the forefront. Because we are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

**Reflection Hymn: VU 560 "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"**

O Master, let me walk with thee  
in lowly paths of service free;  
teach me thy secret, help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move  
with some clear, winning word of love;

teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee,  
in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

in hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broadening way,  
in peace that only thou canst give,  
with thee, O Master, let me live.

### **Invitation to Share Our Gifts:**

**Eric:** In our attempt to follow Christ, we journey with much more than just a walking stick; we take money, bread, clothing, and other comforts we deem to be essential. Yet many of our neighbours lack these very things. Let us share our gifts with those in need, as a testimony to God's grace. 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:** Loving Christ, thank you for teaching us your healing ways, and for entrusting us with your message. Thank you for your generosity of bread and clothing and money of which you spoke so long ago. These are items we cannot imagine travelling without, and basics that many people struggle to attain. Receive our offering today; may it be used to ease the suffering of those you love here in our hometown and beyond. May our praise extend to the far corners of Earth. In Jesus' Name, we pray. 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 639 “One More Step Along the World I Go”**

One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go,  
    from the old things to the new,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
    And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
    keep me travelling along with you.

Round the corner of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn;  
    all the new things that I see  
you'll be looking at along with me:  
    And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
    keep me travelling along with you.

As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
    where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know:  
    And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
    keep me travelling along with you.

Give me courage when the world is rough,  
keep me loving though the world is tough,  
    leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
    And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
    keep me travelling along with you.

You are older than the world can be,  
you are younger than the life in me,  
    ever old and ever new,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
    And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
    keep me travelling along with you.

## **Blessing:**

**Eric:** Let us go, because Christ gives us authority. Go in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever more.

## **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:**