

17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 19th 2021



Opening

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Sentence

God has called us through the gospel, so that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
See 2 Thessalonians 2.14

Collect

Almighty God you have created the heavens and the earth,
and ourselves in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

PROVERBS 31:10-31;

PSALM 1;

JAMES 3:13-4:3, 7-8A;

MARK 9:30-37

I sometimes look at the readings appointed for a given Sunday and wonder, "Why on earth would anyone put these particular Bible passages together for one week?" I don't have that problem this Sunday because even I can see that every reading deals with the question, "How do we live our best life?" This is a great question and I wonder how much time most people actually spend thinking about how they are living their life, do we give it much thought, or are we just moving along reacting to whatever life presents? It is a developmental stage that young people spend a lot of time trying to figure out the big questions, "Who am I?", "What is important?", "What will give my life meaning?"

By our middle and senior years, the assumption is that we have asked and answered these questions. We have made our choices and in many cases are living with the results of those decisions. It might feel like we don't need to visit these big issue questions anymore. But really, if you think about it, are you the same person today that you were one year ago? Don't we all change continuously, which would imply that we have the capacity to continually change for the better, or worse? I heard this week about a prisoner who appealed for early release from a jail sentence because science now tells us that every cell in our body is new every seven years. His lawyers argued that he was literally not the same person that he was seven years ago and should be released!

I like to think that we all have the capacity to continuously improve, or to put it into baptism language, "grow into the full stature of Christ" This week all the readings refer in various ways to an aspect of God called Wisdom. In the OT Wisdom is personified as a Woman who is God's companion at creation and who is available for humanity to "listen to". In the NT the Wisdom aspect of God is seen a Jesus, the Logos or Word of God. Then, as Jesus leaves the earthly plane, he tells us that Wisdom will come to all of his followers as the Holy Spirit. That is why we talk about being inspired (in breath) by the Holy Spirit (or God). So, if we want to lead our best life it seems like we need to be attentive or listen to the ways the Wisdom, as the Holy Spirit of God seeks to assist us.

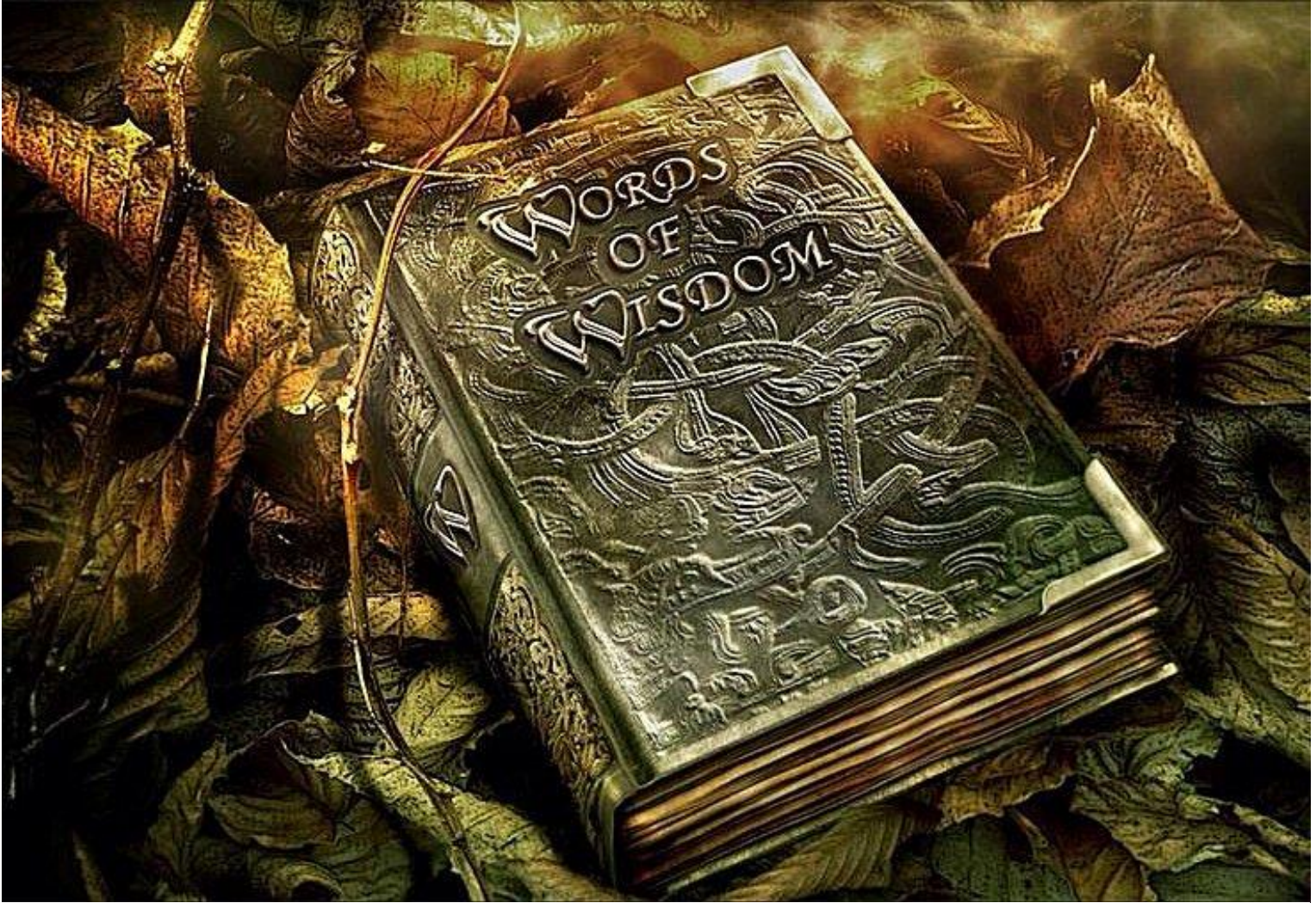
I don't think we need to make this too complicated. You may be thinking you need to spend hours "waiting on the Lord" in Prayer and contemplation. If you have the time that's great, and some have dedicated their lives to doing just that. But for the rest of us who have families, jobs, busy lives we still want to be inspired, don't we? I have been thinking about this all my life and working on various ways that work for me. They will be different for everyone. I almost hesitate to mention my ways because I want to avoid prescribing anything. What I can tell you is that many people find the following helpful. Connecting with nature daily whether walking or just going outside to breathe for a few minutes. Second, paying attention to your interactions with others. Where is God in this conversation or action? There is an old Anglican Morning prayer that goes something like this,

"Holy and Loving God who has safely brought us to the beginning of this day; Defend us in the same with your mighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that which is acceptable in your sight, Through Jesus Christ our Wisdom, Amen"

Okay I changed it a bit because I like to say this prayer every day giving thanks for my life today and asking for help to remember the really big question in life is not, "Who am I?" but "Whose am I?"

When I answer that everything else follows, I am not alone, God is not finished with me yet, there is still this day to pay attention and take time between all the little events of life to look for God's presence.

May the presence of the Holy Spirit be with you every moment, whether you are looking for it or not.



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Prayers of the people - 17th Sunday after Pentecost - from Mary Field jamar@kwic.com

Two themes speak to me in today's readings. Contemplate these as we pray; *Happy are they who trust in the Lord & if you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honourable life and doing good works with humility born of wisdom.*

Let us take a moment to quietly reflect on our faith, breathe deeply knowing we are surrounded by all things of His making.

The following prayers we offer in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Merciful God, you are a God of faithfulness. Your word says you are near to all who call on you in truth and faith. We call on you to strengthen your world church and all churches. Use us your people in the Parish of Long Point Bay to bring your blessing to the communities in which we live. May your love be the passion in our hearts.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we pray for our Queen and all in authority here and around the world; may they govern with wisdom and understanding and for the good of your Church and all people.

Heavenly Father we continue to pray for the world's scientific community praying that enough vaccine will be produced to successfully offer and give treatment to the world's population to end the pandemic and the spread of its variants. We pray for those suffering with covid 19, may they return to health and please Lord take into your arms those who have succumbed to the disease.

Heavenly Father we pray for your comfort and strength for those who are gripped by poverty, war, terror, cruelty, tyranny, weakened by illness or any other adversity. Praying Lord for your intervention and healing touch on those who are suffering.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort; Deal graciously we pray, with those who mourn, that casting all their care on you, may they know the comfort of your love. Remembering in love those who have shaped our lives whom we have placed in your hands, help us remember them well, grant them eternal joy and peace.

We pray for Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, Marinez Bishop of Amazonia. AD Rick Jones, Rev. Enrique Martinez, Rev. Jack Cox

For the week beginning Sunday 19 September 2021, we will be praying for the **Ven. Janet Griffith** (interim), the **Rev. John Ogilvie**, the **Rev. Jack Cox**, the **Rev. Canon Bob Schroeder**, the **Rev. Margaret Shortell** and the people of **St. Mark's, Brantford**.

Remembering our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes.
June, Shirley, Iris, Julie, John, Sheila, Sylvia, Anna and Jack B.

We pray for the ones who have asked for your healing touch upon their lives: Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Delores B., Dale & David F, Rose G, Julie, Janice S., Barbara S., Carol M., George F., Carol H., and anyone known to you.

It is important that we keep the prayer list and shut-in list up to date. If you know of any changes to these lists, can you please email Anne at lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or Enrique at enrique6921@gmail.com

If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them let us know and we will add to the list

Prayer of Confession

Search us O God and know our hearts today
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,
see if there are any hurtful ways in us
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

Words of Assurance

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others
Amen

Closing Prayer

God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you today, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen

Doxology

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Please click on the link to watch this week's Parish Video

https://youtu.be/tQAC6q_6ncU

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is accepting donations for Haiti earthquake relief – For more information go to:

<https://pwrdf.org/pwrdf-accepting-donations-for-haiti-earthquake-relief/>

- September 19 Eucharist Service at Memorial Church Port Ryerse and St. John's Woodhouse.
- September 26 Eucharist Service at St. John's Port Rowan.
- September 29 2021 Fr. Enrique induction Service at St. John's Woodhouse presided over by Ven. Archdeacon Janet Griffith at 3 P.M. COVID-19 restrictions by invitation only, sorry for the inconvenience.



If you have anything you would like to contribute or comment on. Any good movies you've seen or books you have read. Do you have memories you want to share? Please send them to Rev. Enrique and he can include in the newspaper.

Any birthdays/anniversaries/special occasions in September – Let me know for the newspaper. We can celebrate you and add some facts that happened on that day in history. I don't need your year of birth, just the month and date. Of course, if you have a special age birthday and want to celebrate it just let me know. If you are interested in this special occasion section, please send me details.





CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR!

Do you like to sing? Are you in grades 3-12?

A choir program is starting in **PORT ROWAN!!**

Con Brio Singers will have a variety of opportunities for vocalists of all ages.

Rehearsals will take place at St. John's Anglican on Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00 pm

*Depending on the number of singers, this may be divided into separate age divisions.

COST: \$10 for a performance t-shirt (to be worn with plain black pants) and \$20 for music folder (rental)

Rehearsals: September 15 - December 22

EXPECTATIONS: Attend ALL rehearsals, review music during the week (rehearsal tracks will be sent via email), & participate in two performances in December.

The choir will continue into the 2022 year with more opportunities to perform and maybe make a recording!

For more information:

Call Gena at 519 586 7833 or

Email: spiritosomusic1@gmail.com

*Gena (conductor) has her Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education, and an Associate Degree from Trinity College in piano performance. She taught music K-8 for 32 years, including 3 years K-12. She has a police check and is fully vaccinated.

*Kevin (accompanist) has his Bachelor of Music, ARCM, ARCO, and LTCL in piano and organ. He taught music in a private high school in Oakville for 17 years and has 100's of compositions worldwide. He has a police check and is fully vaccinated.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

At this extraordinary time if you wish a telephone visit, please call Enrique. If you have any other announcements or news contact Anne Halls at the contacts below.

Enrique Martinez can be contacted by email at enrique6921@hotmail.com or by phone at 519 586 3401 – Please note that Enrique’s day off will be Fridays

Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at lpparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page

Sing along to this morning's hymns

393 – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but nought changeth thee.
4. Great Source of all glory and wisdom and light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

350 – Stand Up and Bless the Lord

1. Stand up and bless the Lord, you people of God's choice;
Stand up and bless the Lord of hosts with heart and soul and voice.
2. Though high above all praise, above all blessing high,
Who would not fear God's holy name, and laud and magnify?
3. O for the living flame from God's own altar brought,
To touch our lips, our minds inspire, and wing to heaven our thought!
4. God is our strength and song, who makes salvation ours;
Then be God's love in Christ proclaimed with all our ransomed powers.
5. Stand up and bless the Lord; the Lord your God adore;
Stand up and bless the glorious name henceforth for evermore.