

23rd Sunday after Pentecost
October 31st 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

If you love me, you will keep my word, and my Father will love you, and we will come to you.
John 14.23

Collect

Almighty God, whose chosen servant Abraham obeyed your call, rejoicing in your promise that in him the family of the earth is blessed, give us faith like his, that in us your promises may be fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

RUTH 1:1-18;

PSALM 146;

HEBREWS 9:11-14;

MARK 12:28-34

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2021-10-31&submit=show+new+date>

I was struck by the 1st reading for this Sunday. It's the story of Naomi and her family. Naomi has a husband and 2 sons.

First, just a little historical background. This was a male dominated culture where a woman was always only one man (father, husband) away from poverty and destitution (no man – no future). Could a woman survive on her own? Possibly, but thrive? highly unlikely.

Naomi's husband dies and she is left with two sons who marry, and then they die leaving Naomi with 2 daughter's-in-law. (3 women on their own). Naomi is going to return to her birth home in the land of Judah. But she counsels her 2 daughters'-in-law to go back to their mother's home and seek husbands there. Understand that this is not a statement about women's ability or inability. It is simply the cultural reality of the time. (Ladies, if this seems a little misogynistic, wait until next week and see how it really plays out i.e. who's really in charge – all appearances to the contrary notwithstanding!)

Orpah sees the wisdom of Naomi's suggestion and leaves to go back to her mother's home. But Ruth responds with the most loving commitment imaginable:

"Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die - there will I be buried beside you. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

Think about that. What has happened to Ruth for her to make such a commitment to Naomi?

What has happened is nothing less than the growing personal relationship between these two women – no 'rules' or 'exercises', no external requirements, just a personal relationship that has grown between these two women and their shared experiences together which now has made them inseparable. Ruth is risking everything to share her life with Naomi. She has come to believe that there is no life worth living without Naomi.

Having spent a significant portion of my life in the institutional church in a very formal fashion (i.e. life in a religious order), and having been 'taught' about a 'personal relationship' with God and Jesus through lots of 'formal' exercises (e.g. morning prayer, evening prayer, daily eucharist), the one piece that seems to have been missing was simple time spent with God or Jesus developing that personal relationship. Just how do you do that? In common parlance – just hanging out/being together, talking over (sharing) significant times or events. Yes, it means talking with God about things that matter. But it also, and perhaps most importantly, means waiting and listening for God's response.

I have come to believe it's that dead simple – you simply spend time together – personal time together (not 'scripted' where everything is prewritten). How do friendships develop? Spending personal time together – sharing experiences together, talking and listening.

Nothing - and I do mean nothing – takes the place of those shared personal times and experiences together! There is no substitute for that! That's the heart, the 'meat and potatoes' of a real relationship. Everything else is 'window dressing.'

You can't regulate it! You can't orchestrate it! You can sometimes provide the opportunities – but not always!

So, when the s**t hits the fan, sit down and talk it out with God/Jesus. What's really bugging you? Tell him. What was the high point of your day? Share it. But then (and this is the really critical part) stop and listen – keep listening for as long as it takes for God to get back to you or get through to you. (And there's no set time line for this. But I promise you it will happen). This process changed Ruth's life - and it has changed mine.



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Prayers for Sunday 31st October, 2021. Submitted by Jack Addison - jwaddison54@gmail.com

Our gracious eternal God, we thank you for those in our biblical heritage who have been true and loyal in their commitments.

We thank you for a book such as Ruth which was written in a male dominated culture where women had few rights and where they were disenfranchised without their husbands.

We thank you for this early heroine in the faith who knew about commitment, love, loyalty, and faithfulness.

We pray that we will be enabled to value such commitments in our time.

Help us to see how love transcends all human differences and national origins.

Help us to develop integrity and loyalty and have the will to live by what we believe and to sacrifice for others.

Help us to be faithful to the family and friends with whom we walk and live daily.

Help us to meet the needs of others even if it comes as a sacrifice for us.

Help us to make a commitment to love those to whom we are bound as in-laws and to own them as our own as did Ruth.

O God, whose heart must suffer by human cruelty and sin, bring to us the vision of a better world and the will to make it happen. Lead us to a world of love, good will, and peace. Give us the will to work for a better world for all nations and all people. Amen

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

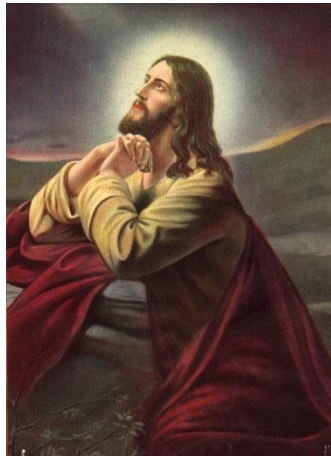
For the week beginning Sunday 31 October 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Paul Silcox** and the people of **Grace Church, Brantford**.

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/LqleInfMevk>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday October 31st
Memorial church at 9:30 am
St. John's Woodhouse 11:00 am

Eucharist services on Sunday November 7th
St. John's Port Rowan



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 November – 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.



Our Parish of Long Point Bay Projects

“for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. “Matthew 25:35-36

Hispanic & Migrant Farmworker Outreach Ministry

The Hispanic & Migrant Farmworker Outreach Ministry in the diocese of Huron is a ministry committed to making our migrant workers visible and supported in our community. Migrant farmworkers are a long way from home and sacrifice family life, support network, and their culture, coming to Canada to work and support their families back home. As Christians we want to welcome, support, include, and make them visible in our Canadian community.

Day care

The aim of St. John’s Day Care is to introduce the Anglican faith to families in Long Point Bay Parish by providing Child Care to their children while teaching them about biblical histories using children’s books and other materials that can attract children’s interest s, puzzles, toys, etc. Also, provide Spanish classes, healthy homemade meals and outdoor activities. Build a bridge between the community and the Anglican Church to encourage families with younger children to acquire knowledge of our Anglican Church.

Greenhouse

This project aims to benefit those less fortunate to have access to fresh vegetables. Families living in a low income, immigrants just arriving to Canada, people who have been negatively impacted due to COVID-19 (job loss)

Population growth and less availability of food material have become global concerns. The world population increases exponentially whereas food production has increased only arithmetically, meaning that the availability of food per capita has decreased. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom by respond to human need by loving service. God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love, and compassion the marks of His kingdom. As followers of Jesus, we have a choice: respond to unsettling realities in fear and withdraw, or follow Him in responding to the greatest needs of our day with love and hope.

It is anticipated that funding for these projects will be provided through government grants, support from the diocese of Huron and individual donations. **Donations may be made to the Parish of Long Point Bay.**

I really hope that you will support these outreach projects that put our faith into action.

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So, faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” James 2:14



Sing Along to this week's Hymns

Hymn Texts – Sunday, October 31, 2021

423 – How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!
2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!
3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin;
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!
4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation and claim his own, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!

425 – Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around thee, centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father and our Mother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

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@gmail.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 lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page