

2nd Sunday of Lent
February 28th 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.

And also, with you.

Sentence

The Son of man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

John 3.14–15

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross, give us faith to perceive his glory, that being strengthened by his grace we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16;

PSALM 22:22-30;

ROMANS 4:13-25;

MARK 8:31-38 OR MARK 9:2-9

Reflection for second Sunday of Lent

Interesting readings for the 2nd Sunday in lent. This is the end of the 1st year of the pandemic or the beginning of the second year. How are you feeling these days? Upbeat? Positive? Hopeful? Or is this whole thing starting to wear really very thin?

But on this Sunday, we hear God's promise to Abram (not Abraham, just Abram) who is 99 years old. "You shall be the father of many (that's literally what Abraham means (Av raham, literally 'Father of many')). At 99? Really?

The great blessing was that you see your children's children to the 3rd and fourth generation. That way, your name is not likely to be forgotten! You live on to the third and fourth generation and beyond!

Similarly, the promise to Sarai is that she will be called Sarah. She shall give rise to nations.

Notice Abe and Sara aren't really jumping up and down. They're simply trying to wrap their heads around what God seems to be promising them. (Remember that bareness, childlessness was seen as a curse.)

Paul, in the second reading simply reminds us what 'faith' really means – it means trust. It means to hold something to be real before it is visibly, tangibly real.

The only way Abraham and Sarah 'trusted' God's good news to them, was because they had already experienced God's activity in their lives. They had heard the promises before and God had delivered on those promises.

Which now begs the question for you and me. In the midst of this pandemic - the consequences of which are all too familiar to us at this point- what (or better, who do we trust?) Really trust? The promise of this pandemic, or the promise of God. As we move through lent towards Easter, do we do this with the confidence that Easter is already ours? Or do we move as those not really sure what does lie ahead?

I'm choosing to trust God's good news! Not blindly but based on my experience of 78 (soon to be 79) years of lived experience. I have messed up more times in my life than dogs have fleas. In fact, I'm probably a mess-up expert! (If you need any advice in how to mess up just call me!) But my experience over that 78 (almost 79) years as also been that God has been with me every step of the way. And while I keep expecting God to respond, "What? Again??? When are you going to learn...?" That's not what happens! God leaves the "Oh my..." to me and simply picks me up, dusts me off and says, "Let's try it this way instead." And on we go. And I'm gob-smacked every time! Just as I'm sure Abraham was.

So, who or what do you trust? And most importantly, why?

And while it is particularly difficult this lent because we seem so isolated, so 'on our own' we really aren't. And Paul would remind us, 'just because it's harder to see the promise this year, it is no less already ours!

Travel well through this season of promise!

Rev Jack Cox - revjackcox@gmail.com

Prayers of the People for the 2nd Sunday of Lent – by Dorothy Koorn simcoecleanair@gmail.com

Loving Creator,

We asked for strength, and you gave us difficulties to make us strong.

We asked for wisdom, and you gave us problems to solve.

We asked for prosperity, and you gave us purpose and brains to use.

We asked for courage, and you gave us fears to overcome.

We asked for patience, and you gave us situations where we were forced to wait.

We asked for love, and you gave us troubled people to help.

We asked for justice, and you called us to be just and lead with integrity.

Lord, we have received nothing that we asked for or wanted.

And yet our prayers were answered, because you gave us everything that we needed.

For this we give thanks. *

Long before the change of name,

before the first signs of new life showed the beginnings of promises fulfilled,

You asked Abram to make his home among foreigners, and share the blessing that was to come.

Teach us to be children of Abram, sharers of the blessings we enjoy:

The blessing of plenty shared with those who have need,

The blessing of healing shared with those who are sick and wounded,

The blessing of joy shared with those who celebrate

and of tears shared with those who grieve,

The blessing of friendship shared with those who are excluded,

and of solidarity with those who fight injustice,

The blessing of peace shared with those in conflict,

And in some small way, may our faith and our sharing, help to fulfil your promises in our world.**

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 February 28, 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Canon Tony Bouwmeester** (interim) and the people of **St. Paul's, Port Dover**.

We pray for our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes. We especially remember: June, Shirley, Iris, Julie, David, John, 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, Eric, Julie, Janice S., Barbara S., Cindy L. and anyone known to you. Amen.

In the damp dark of uncertainty, in the ominous threat of the storm,
appears a gentle arc of colours, the rainbow, that remembers the light.

We praise You, Loving Creator, for rainbows and promises
and the courage we find in their comforting presence.

Amen.**

** By Colleen Hanycz, PhD incoming President at Xavier University*

*** Adapted from Sacredise.com*



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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@hotmail.com

If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them during this pandemic, we will put on the prayer list for a month.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We will resume in person Church services on Sunday March 7th
with a service at St. John's Port Rowan at 9:30.
Following the guidelines below**

ORANGE ZONE Follow Diocesan AMBER Stage Guidelines

- All meetings/groups should be virtual except 12 step groups
- If a meeting must be held in person, a max of 10 people for less than 1 hour
- Facemasks must be worn by singers unless they are separated from others by an impenetrable barrier
- No wind instruments
- Pastoral visits should be done by phone or zoom unless there is a strong pastoral need for an in-person visit. Facemasks must be worn.
- No permission will be given for exceptions to the AMBER Stage protocol.

Please click on the link to watch this week's video

<https://youtu.be/ErY8aAIOPZw>

If you have anything you would like to contribute or comment on, regarding the newsletter, please do not hesitate to let Rev Enrique or myself know.

Any birthdays in March – 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 the birthday section please send me details.

Sing along to this morning's hymns

Hymn Texts – Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021

468 – To Abraham and Sarah

1. To Abraham and Sarah, the call of God was clear:
“Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey, for I have pledged my word
That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”
2. From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,
Dependent for their journey on God's abundant grace;
And in their heart was written by God this saving word,
“That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”
3. We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid
Can journey to the future secure and unafraid,
Rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in this word,
“That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”

431 – Take Up Your Cross, the Saviour Said

1. Take up your cross, the Saviour said, if you would my disciple be;
Deny yourself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me.
2. Take up your cross, let not its weight fill your weak soul with vain alarm;
His strength shall bear your spirit up, and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
3. Take up your cross, nor heed the shame, and let your foolish pride be still;
Your Lord for you endured to die upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.
4. Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and calmly every danger brave:
'twill guide you to a better home and lead to victory o'er the grave.
5. Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
For only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

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

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page