

Forth Sunday of Advent
December 20th 2020



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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

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.

Matthew 1.23

Collect

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16;

CANTICLE 18 (LUKE 1:47-55) OR PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26;

ROMANS 16:25-27;

LUKE 1:26-38

Reflection Dec 20th, 2020 – from AD Rick Jones

Magnificat: Mary's Song of Praise

***And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'* Luke 1:46-55**

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent and if you are lighting candles on your Advent Wreath today's candle is the candle for Love. It is no coincidence that the theme of Love is related to Mary's story in Luke's gospel. It is an amazingly complex tale of a woman's faith and trust in God. If you just take a moment to put yourself into the story, you realize that Mary's "yes" to Gabriel could have easily turned into a death sentence of stoning for breaking the Hebrew laws. The story of Mary is romanticised by the church and our culture, but let's face it, Mary was an unwed mother. Not a pretty place to be, then or now. We like to celebrate Mary the mother of Jesus with a blue veil and the baby in the manger, but the biblical Mary was also an amazingly strong woman of faith who, in Luke's Gospel, foreshadows Jesus' compassion and care for the poor, outcast and downtrodden. After the Annunciation we have Mary going to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, and singing an amazing song, rich in the tradition of great Hebrew women before her, Miriam, and Hannah being just two. I have reprinted it for us above. It is the longest speech of any woman in the New Testament, it is the song of a joyful prophetess. It is a song that has inspired so many composers to produce moving music to these words. It is the oldest Advent Hymn. It is a song that is highly political and controversial. During the British occupation of India, the Magnificat was banned from being read or sung in the Church. During Argentina's "Dirty War", the mothers of the disappeared children plastered the capital plaza with the words of the Magnificat, the military junta then banned all public displays of the song. Credit to, and for more on this theme, see: Debie Thomas at <https://www.journeywithjesus.net/lectionary-essays/current-essay?id=2856>

Mary's vision of hope, is too dangerous for any society were there is systemic injustice, racism, poverty and abuse of power. This is the other side of the Love that we celebrate today. While we

want to wrap ourselves up in the warm and comfortable idea of Mary, meek and mild, mother of Jesus, and the glowing family Christmas story of the Creche, we are reminded today that that is only one side of the Mary story. Her love, trust and faithfulness to God was born in conflict over her status as unwed mother, and threat of death. It was nurtured by raising Jesus who practiced and taught radical love for everyone. It came to maturity as she saw her son die for that radical vision of love and justice that she had proclaimed in her prophetic song, not of sorrow, but of joy. Love is not all about the things that make us feel good it is also about the things we stand for and live for, that truly are Good. Today as we see the witness of Mary and anticipate the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus, we are called to make a difference in our world of pandemic, fear, uncertainty, and political and social upheaval. It is Love that compels it. We light the Candle of Love today and hopefully everyday.

Archdeacon Rick Jones, rickplus@gmail.com



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Prayers of the People for 20th December, 2020 from Jack Addison

O Creator of Joy, we thank you for moments of joy and celebration in our lives, for pleasure given and received, for quiet times spent in reflection and remembering, and for happy gatherings, even if they had to be small. In these colder, darker days, we remember those who feel left out or neglected, those who have found the months of pandemic restrictions a heavy burden, and those we find difficult to love. Let us be their light and their warmth, O God, reach out to all of us in Christ, and give us joy to share in the days ahead.

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 December 20, 2020, 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.

Pray as well as 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. and anyone known to you. Amen.

We pray also this week for the family and friends of Grace Ledgerwood who passed away on December 12th. She was a prominent member of the church at Turkey Point. I have attached a link to her obituary.

<https://simcoereformer.remembering.ca/obituary/grace-ledgerwood-1081196021>



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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:

Dear Church Out Serving Friends,

If you have been following the news lately, you will likely be aware that the farm workers from Trinidad and Tobago are not able to return home after the past growing season. Even though there have been behind-the-scenes efforts to find a way to get them back to their families, we know that they will be here for Christmas and beyond. There are several farms right here in Norfolk that have Trinidadian workers... so this affects us locally. Below you will find the list of items needed... These items must be in **new or excellent used condition**. Here is the list of items:

7 pair of men's winter gloves - size L

2 men's sweaters/hoodies – size L

2 men's sweaters/hoodies – size XXL

3 men's winter coats - size M

5 men's winter coats - size L

3 men's winter coats - size XL

1 men's winter boots size 7

1 men's winter boots size 8

1 men's winter boots size 8 ½
1 men's winter boots size 8 1/2 to 9
2 men's winter boots size 9
1 men's winter boots size 10 1/2
4 men's winter boots size 11
2 men's winter boots size 12

Again, just to be clear, these are the only items that the workers have asked for.

God bless you.
Enrique.

Indoor Services continue in a limited fashion.

Dear parishes in Norfolk

The areas covered by the Haldimand-Norfolk Public health have moved into the Province's Orange Zone as of 12:01am on Monday, November 30th.

Please continue to follow the Diocesan AMBER Stage guidelines with the following modifications:

- All meetings/groups should be virtual except 12 step groups
- If a meeting must be held in person, there must be a maximum of 10 people present less than 1 hour
- While soloists, cantors or small vocal groups (4 or less) are still permitted, facemasks must be worn by the 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. Hospital visits may continue within the hospital's guidelines.
- No permission will be given for any exception to the AMBER Stage protocol.

If the public health unit's restrictions are more stringent than those of the diocese, please follow those.

Please be in touch if you have any questions or concerns regarding these modifications to the guidelines.

Pax
Tanya+

Services:

Memorial will not be holding any in-person services until further notice

December services for St. John's, Port Rowan and Woodhouse

Today at 9:30 Morning Prayer at St John's Port Rowan with Rev Enrique Martinez

This year on Christmas Eve the Eucharist Services with Rev Jack Cox will be as follows:

St. John's Port Rowan at 5pm

St. John's Woodhouse at 9pm

There will be no Christmas Day Services

Sunday Dec 27th at 11am Morning Prayer at St John's Port Woodhouse with Rev Enrique Martinez

Your Long Point Bay Regular Service can be found here:

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uhs32dBRkgo&feature=youtu.be>

Here are today's hymns so you can sing along

269 – Heavenly Message

1. Heavenly message, brought by an angel, coming to lift the hopes of the earth;
Bringing to Mary humble and lowly, God's invitation to give the Christ birth.

CHORUS Mary we hail you, full of God's favour, blessed are you, and blessed your son;

He will be called the child of the highest, Saviour of all, the holy one.

2. Mary replied to Gabriel's message, "I am the servant, maid of the Lord,
Let it be done just as you have spoken. My soul rejoices in God's saving word."

CHORUS

3. In the beginning, when God had spoken, through God's own Word all things came to be;
Now by that Word, embodied through Mary, God's glory blazes, that our eyes may see."

CHORUS

117 – Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright
amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Saviour, when half spent was the night.

3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispel in glorious splendour the darkness everywhere;
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

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

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page

