

5th Sunday after Epiphany
February 7th 2021



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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

I am the light of the world, says the Lord. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
John 8.12

Collect

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

ISAIAH 40:21-31;

PSALM 147:1-12, 21C;

1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23;

MARK 1:29-39

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2021-02-07&submit=show+new+date>

Reflection for February 7th from the Rev'd John



Good evening friends,

I hope you did not think that Padre Juan had forgotten about you.

That would never happen.

I extend a welcome to our reader friends in Mexico, the U.S. and England and the Parish of Long Point Bay. Please know that you are considered part of our family and that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Our little group is growing and it is quite exciting. We are a faith community that cares deeply for one another. And in these uncertain times of pandemic, this certainty is a comfort. Okay, now to my reflection.

It is no secret that Anglicans have a tendency to shy away from the word evangelism. As soon as we hear this word, we might think of someone standing on a corner on a soapbox, Bible in hand, exhorting those walking by to repent. This could not be further from the truth. Evangelism simply means to tell one's story. And we all have wonderful and varied stories about our faith and our connection to God. And we should not keep these stories to ourselves. I think about all stories that are represented in our little group and it fills me with joy and gives me hope. Our stories are what give vitality to our life of faith, and they are inexorably connected to the Holy Spirit. We must tell our stories because they lend grace and beauty to the landscape of our ordinary lives.

If you would indulge me, I would like to share a story with you this evening.

This evening as we were returning from our customary walk, I happened to glance up and was struck by the beauty of our century old barn. It stands empty now, but the vast interior is filled with echoes of days gone by. Like an abandoned amusement park at the seashore, the voices of the past can still be imagined, almost heard. And as I stared at this magnificent repository of memories, I was drawn to a day long, long, ago, and I closed my eyes and was transported thirty-three five years back in time....

I woke up to hear the sound of the horses galloping madly in the north pasture. I ran out just to make sure that they had not broken through the gate. They had not, but they all came running at a trot to greet me. It was a beautiful summer morning. The sound of the cicadas was an indication that we were in for a hot and muggy day. The summer had been particularly hot, and there had been many thunderstorms. As long as the weather was not too bad, the horses spent the night in the pasture. They loved the freedom afforded by the wide-open space.

I was alone at the farm that weekend. Everyone else had travelled to Houston to visit relatives. I was not nervous about being in charge, because I thought I was prepared for anything and everything. Really, what could go wrong?

As I was eating lunch, I turned on the television and saw that there was a special weather statement from Environment Canada. It said that there was a possibility for severe weather in the afternoon. I peered out the window and saw nothing but Honolulu blue sky and brilliant sunlight. I made sure the horses were well watered and sat down to read a book. Wouldn't you know it, I fell fast asleep. When I woke up and looked out the window, I did not see blue sky. I walked out to the pasture to find the horses standing in a line with their rear ends turned to the east. I knew that this was probably not a good sign. And then, quite suddenly, the clouds cover became thicker and began to change colour. It went from a dark grey to a yellow greenish hue. My mother was born in the Midwest. As a child she had told me that if the clouds ever turned green, it was time to head to the basement. The horses began to get nervous, and came up to the gate. And as I was pondering what to do next, the wind, which had been increasing in strength, suddenly stopped. The tree branches seemed to droop in the stagnant air. And then, the wind returned, but it was in the opposite direction and it was colder. And as I looked up, the clouds above were rotating. It was obvious that the horses needed to come in.

Usually, we had three or four people with halters and lead ropes to bring the gang inside. But here I was, alone, with a possible tornado bearing down on us. By this time the horses were becoming agitated, for they sensed inclement weather. And I could not help but think how the disciples must have felt as their little fishing boat was tossed about on the waves, as Jesus slept on the pillows. They implored Jesus to wake up and save them, which he did after telling them that they were of little faith. I looked up and asked God to help me. I thought I was prepared for every eventuality, but that was not the case. The same applies to our daily lives. Are we prepared for anything and everything? Is our faith strong enough to sustain us through storms that come up unexpectedly? The gate to the pasture was only 55 feet from the gate to the paddock which led to the indoor arena. I opened the gate to the paddock and approached the horses with a halter and lead shank in hand. They sensed that I was there to bring them in and they settled down. My plan was predicated on the behaviour of pachyderms at a circus. Elephants will walk in a straight line as long as the one in the lead is properly controlled by a handler. So, I unclipped the latch to the gate at the pasture and put the halter on Abby, a level headed gelding who never gave us any trouble. Leaving the gate open, I began to walk towards the paddock gate. And lo and behold, all eight horses were following in a straight line. And right when I reached the paddock gate, there was a tremendous flash of lightning and a terrible thunderclap. And in an instant, the horses bolted in every direction. I took Abby into the arena and ran back outside. As the rain came down in torrents, with lightning, thunder, and high winds, I was able to find the horses, one by one, and bring them back into the arena. I battened down the hatches, and got out the grain buckets. The weather deteriorated quickly, but all was well inside. And Eddie, who was usually shy, came over and put his head on my shoulder as though to say high.

Now, why did I tell you this story?

It is because we all know that life has a way of brewing storms completely out of the blue. Just when we think we have everything under control, something unexpected happens. We have been living with this pandemic for 10 months now. The storms continue to rage. But we have shown surprising resilience and amazing faith. We cannot be prepared for everything life throws our way. But we can be spiritually prepared to face whatever comes our way. We just have to live our lives according to Jesus' great commandment

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbour as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.

With these two commandments we have what it takes to face any storm. We are prepared. And since we are called to love our neighbour as ourselves, we are prepared to help each other.

We will continue to be there for one another, always.

And we will continue to tell our stories.

Amen

Eternal God, you create us by your power and redeem us by your love. Guide us and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves today in love and service to one another and to you: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Que Diosito me los bendiga

Paz

I love you

John

Prayers of the People from Mary Field

Preparing for prayers and contemplating the anxiety & fear in the world, I was led to - **1 Peter 5:7** *Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.* Please contemplate this as we take some time to quiet minds and open our hearts. Let us breathe in the spirit of God and breathe out our human problems to His care.

Heavenly Father thank you for this day- we are so grateful you are here with us. Wondering on this day in our lives what you may want us to know and understand.

We offer the following prayers in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ

We pray for guidance, strength and wisdom to be worthy of your Grace. Heavenly Father, thank you for all the blessings you have given us- for all answered prayers, for the miracles you have performed for each of us. We pray for our improved awareness of your blessings in our lives.

We pray for all who serve in these difficult and unusual times, soldiers, policeman, nurses, paramedics, moms, dads, and ever ending list of those who serve and care for us. We pray for their safety and may they find your strength and courage to continue.

Heavenly Father we offer an urgent prayer concerning racial and political global unrest. Praying, particularly at this time, for people in the United States, Russia, Hong Kong, and [Myanmar](#).

The Heavenly Father help us as we pray for peace, praying the Prince of Peace may enlighten minds and hearts around the world to resolve disputes with words and deeds of compassion.

Heavenly Father there is an urgent humanitarian crisis in many parts of the world. We urgently pray for your intervention. We pray for an end to this unjust suffering and pray for your loving support for those caught in this completely unnecessary suffering.

We pray for wisdom and the courage to practice true justice for all policymakers, government leaders, and those in leadership roles.

Heavenly Father we pray for the world's scientific community as they continue to develop vaccines and treatments for COVID-19 as this dreadful pandemic disease mutates and makes the challenge urgent. 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.

We pray for all loved ones whom we have placed in your loving arms. Grant to them eternal rest and may we remember them well.

Lord, teach us to offer you a heart of thanksgiving and praise for our daily experiences of life. Teach us to be always joyful, to pray continually and to give thanks in all our circumstances. Teach us empathy for others. We accept this as your will for our lives. Break the power of the enemy in our lives and help us have a positive outlook and attitude for more joyful contentment. Teach us patience, as we face quarantine. We are so grateful you placed us in this part of the world. We are thankful for the relative safety of our friends and family. Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives. Forgive us when we don't thank you enough. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirit; fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for you alone are worthy. Amen

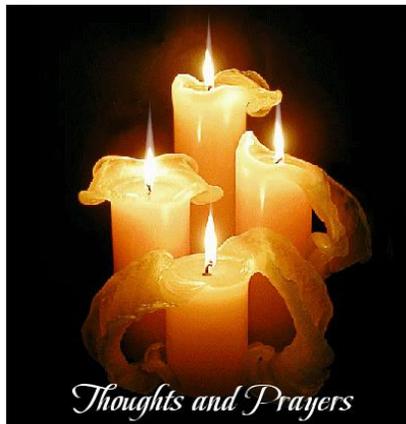
We pray for: - Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, Marinez Bishop of Amazonia. AD Rick Jones, Rev. Enrique Martinez, Rev. Jack Cox

For the week beginning Sunday February 7, 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Enrique Martinez** and the people of the **Parish of Long Point Bay**.

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., Judy Z. and anyone known to you. Amen.

Please pray for Diane Salter and family. Diane's sister passed away on Friday. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



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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.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k69cA3YHqnA&feature=youtu.be>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

I sent the first edition of the LBP newsletter to everyone via email on Friday, if you did not receive please let me know. I also sent a mailing to anyone who does not have an email address. If you know of anyone that would like to receive a copy by email or post please let me know.

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.

I would like to start a special birthday/anniversary announcement section, so if your birthday is upcoming, 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.



Dear friends,

With the declaration of a State of Emergency for the province of Ontario beginning at 12:01am on Thursday, January 14, 2021, the RED Stage Loving Your Neighbours Guidelines have been updated. The RED Stage guidelines may be found [here](#). Below are the updates as well as some reminders for this period of time. The next few weeks will be difficult in many ways but we are not alone. God is with us, “an ever present help in times of trouble.” May you feel God’s presence with you during these during these days.

- Recording or Live-streaming services: a maximum of three (3) persons will permitted to be present to record or live-stream worship services, including any AV people. If a parish feels a strong need to a maximum of two others present, they may seek permission from their Territorial Archdeacon for a maximum of five persons, total. This request is to include the reasons for needing more people and a description of the locations and movement of people throughout the service. While the provincial maximum is higher than this number, we believe it is important for the church to lead by example in reducing our non-household contacts as much as possible.
- Even though there will be very few people present when recording or filming these services, masking and physical distancing guidelines must be followed. If a mask is removed to preach or officiate, no other person may be within 12 feet (2m) of the person who is not wearing a mask.
- If the services are filmed in segments so that more than three people are seen to be involved but are not present at the same time, it would be helpful to have that stated at the beginning or end of the service.
- The dropping off of Sunday School lessons and materials, worship materials, parish newsletters, bulletins, etc is permitted if done in a non-contact manner.
- Church buildings are to remain closed except for the following:
 - Recording or live-streaming worship as above
 - Counting of offerings: two persons only may be present in the building to count offerings and prepare the bank deposit. As we are not worshipping in person, there will likely be less physical offerings so this may only need to be done bi-weekly. The counters are to wear masks and to maintain physical distancing.
 - Parish office staff or clergy who need access to office equipment to provide parish materials. Only those tasks which absolutely cannot be done from their home should be done at the church. Time at the church is to be minimized as much as possible.

- Regular security/maintenance checks done by a single individual (or couple from the same household) as required by insurance carrier.
- Food insecurity or Out of the Cold programs.
- 12-step programs (maximum of 10 people/meeting)
- A schedule should be developed so that the above persons do not overlap.
- A communication should be sent to the parish informing them that the church building is closed for the present time and that they may not drop into the building for any reason without prior authorization from the wardens.

Should any of our restrictions differ from those of the provincial government or your local health unit, the more stringent regulations are always to be followed.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten resources will be shared within the next couple of weeks.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Stay home, stay safe.

Blessings,

Tanya+

The Venerable Tanya Phibbs

Archdeacon of Huron

Sing along to this morning's hymns

Hymn Texts – Sunday, Feb.7, 2021

496-Teach Me, My God and King

1. Teach me, my God and King, in all things thee to see,
And what I do in anything to do it as for thee.
2. All may of thee partake; nothing can be so mean,
Which with this tincture, "For thy sake," will not grow bright and clean
3. A servant with this clause makes drudgery divine;
Who sweeps a room as for thy laws makes that and the action fine.
4. This is the famous stone that turneth all to gold;
For that which God doth touch and own cannot for less be told.

531-You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"
And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.
2. Snares of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear:
Under his wings your refuge, his faithfulness your shield.
And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.
3. You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.
4. For to his angels he's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.
And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

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