

5th Sunday of Lent
March 21st 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

Anyone who serves me must follow me, says the Lord, and where I am, there shall my servant be also. *John 12.26*

Collect

Most merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you created humanity anew.

May the power of his victorious cross transform those who turn in faith to him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Reading

JEREMIAH 31:31-34;

PSALM 51:1-13 OR PSALM 119:9-16;

HEBREWS 5:5-10;

JOHN 12:20-33

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2021-03-21&submit=show+new+date>

Who will donate their life?

Our lives generally run quite superficially. many times, we are terrified of entering ourselves. It produces a kind of vertigo to peer into our interiority. Who is this strange being that I discover within me, full of fears and questions, hungry for happiness and fed up with problems, always searching and always unsatisfied?

What posture should I have when contemplating in that strange mixture of nobility and misery, of greatness and smallness, of finitude and infinity? We understand we feel the same bewilderment as St Augustine, who, questioned by the death of his best friend, stops to reflect on his own life: "I have become a great enigma for myself" says St. Augustine.

There is a possible first position. It's called resignation, and it consists of being content with who we are. Install ourselves in our little daily life and accept our finitude. Naturally, for this we have to silence any rumor of transcendence. Close your eyes to any sign that invites us to look into infinity. Remain deaf to every call coming from the Mystery. Remain silent in the face of the pain of others, social injustice, the openness of the brother, silence in us that who shouts aloud that there is to serve the brother because by serving the brother we serve God.

Another position is to silence our faith, which in the end we turn it into a social act where I go to meet others in the church because I need to have a social life. It is closing our eyes to the pain and suffering of our brothers in other countries because I am fine.

There is another attitude we can take at the crossroads of life. An absolute trust in everything that is told to us by those who have dark interests, in all those who call themselves pastors and reassure our consciences by telling us that we are not guilty of what happens in the world and that we are not responsible for the failures of the governments.

But we are Christians we are called to take our life in the presence of our Savior, of our Christ. We have to open ourselves to the only one that is The Way, the truth and the life. We are called to be 13 *"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot."* We have to fight with all our might to fulfill the divine mandate of Christ *"you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."* John 13:34 many misunderstood this phrase of Christ and understood "Arm yourselves one against another."

We are called to be *"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house."* Matthew 5:13-16

It is not easy to be a true Christian, it is not easy to gain our life, when it seems that we are losing it. Today's gospel calls us to reflect on many things but I want us to take a single sentence *"Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life."* John 12:25

Faced with the world wars, the great pandemics, and everything that demonstrates human fragility, we will always be full of fears and fears, many people lost their lives for different causes, many lost

their lives and never knew why they were fighting, many others lost hope and love seems to go into a refrigerator

Jesus today is at the door of death, on the cross and at the door of being humiliated, beaten, denied, left in great loneliness teaches us *that "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." John 12:24*

That whatever we do with our life has to be one with that of Christ, that we have to put our faith in Him, accept God as the root and destiny of our being. Believe in the salvation that is offered to us. And then for many it will seem that we are losing our life, many others will laugh and make fun of your work in Christ, but that is when you begin to win your life.

Many confused tell us that, because we must die, or wait for death with resignation, for God. We are Christians, we do not expect to die for God, we live in Christ; because we are in God, a God of the living and not of the dead: *"I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? 27 He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong." Mark 12:26-27*

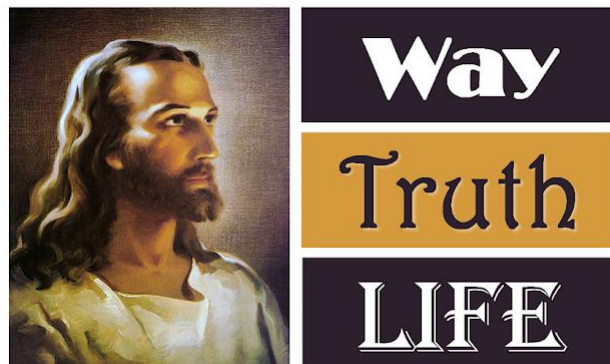
what we do every day is to live our life in the life of our brother, because we cannot let those who are our brothers suffer and who cry out and cry out to God to help them.

We do not wait, we give our lives with joy, we go to fight every day, every morning and every evening for the love of God that is manifested in our brother.

We Christians are already living in the kingdom, because, although it seems that we suffer, we are full of love for our neighbor where God himself gives himself to us. Our joy and our life is to ensure that each brother has a well-being in Christ, and then we are losing life and we are gaining it.

Only from that full trust in God, in Our Lord Jesus Christ our Savior can we understand the words of our Master: *«Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life ».*

We have to confidently open ourselves to the Mystery of a God who is unfathomable Love and Goodness. Recognize and accept that we are children loved by God, that we are the chosen people and purified with the blood of Christ and then we can say as St. *Augustine "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."*



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Prayers of the People for the 5th Sunday of Lent – from Jack Addison

Our gracious, eternal God, we pause and acknowledge your presence now and always in our lives. We acknowledge our deep needs to learn how much you love us and to learn how to receive your love. We confess that it is easier to think that you are against us when we sin and do wrong.

It is easy for us to fall into behaviours which are self-condemning and set up barriers which keep us from being bathed and healed by the power of your love for us.

Remind us that you love us so dearly. Remind us that your covenant with us has always been to embrace us rather than to punish us.

Penetrate our barriers and our false pride whenever we become overcome by self-condemnation.

Take us by the hand, lead us in your ways.

Put your law within us and write it on our hearts.

Help us to know the truth of the words you spoke through Jeremiah that you “will remember our sin no more.”

We pray also for our human family. We so often do not have the vision to include everyone in it. We witness so much brokenness and violence.

We pray for peace in all corners of the earth.

We pray for less bitterness among groups, factions, tribes, and nations.

We pray for those whose lives are lived in poverty.

We pray for those for whom the doors of opportunity are closed.

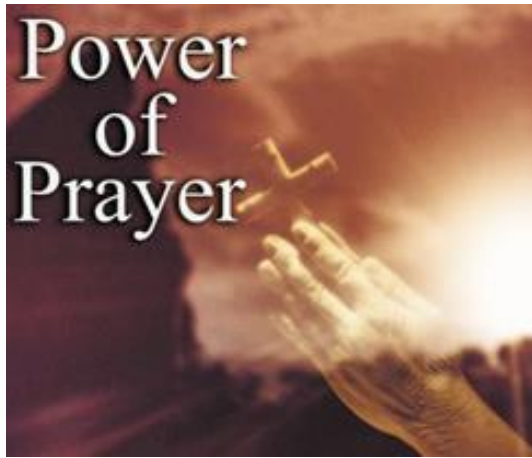
Remedy the wrongs of this world. Give us the vision of a world in which we demonstrate our covenant with you by also demonstrating your love toward our neighbours. Give us the will to work for the day when all peoples of the earth have food, education, and opportunity to fulfill themselves. Help us to provide healing for the brokenness of all your children. 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 March 21, 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Kendall Reimer-Johnston**, the **Rev. Matthew Hartt** (Deacon) and the people of **Brant Regional Ministry**.

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., and anyone known to you. Amen.



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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the ever-present threat of COVID-19 in our area. It has been decided to suspend all church services immediately, until further notice.

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 or April – 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.

Part Time Employment Opportunity:

We are looking for an Organist for Local Anglican Services- Our group enjoys singing a variety of styles of music. Organ is manual digital with full pedal board. Standard payroll. If you or anyone you know may be interested please send resume to enrique6921@hotmail.com

Any questions 519-586-3401

FUND RAISER BY: ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, PT. ROWAN

CELEBRATE: SPRING EASTER MOTHER'S DAY EASTER LILIES

**ORDER & PAY BY MAR 23
PICKUP SATURDAY APRIL 3
9-3**

MOTHER'S DAY HANGING POTS

**ORDER & PAY BY APRIL 27
PICKUP SATURDAY MAY 8
9-3**

SUCCULENTS GOLDFISH PLANT



15.00/3 ASSORT

12.00

CUT LILIES 15-20 BLOOMS



13.00 EA

MIXED 10" HANGING BOSTON FERN



16.00 EA

TO ORDER AND PAY: CONTACT VERONICA HARRIS CHUCKIE313@HOTMAIL.COM

MESSAGE ON FACEBOOK OR CELL TO TEXT 519 410 2568

CONTACT MARIE GRANGER MARIEGRANGER@HOTMAIL.COM

CELL TO CALL OR TEXT 519 410 5633

PICKUP SITE: CHURCH HALL, SIDE DOOR, 46

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

<https://youtu.be/IGL4FLCZo80>

Sing along to this morning's hymns

Hymn Texts – Sunday, March 21, 2021

455 – Dear God, Compassionate and Kind

1. Dear God, compassionate and kind, forgive our foolish ways.
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise, in deeper reverence, praise.
2. In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow thee, rise up and follow thee!
3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee- the silence of eternity
Interpreted by love, interpreted by love!
4. Drop thy still dews of quietness till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace, the beauty of thy peace.
5. Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm, O still small voice of calm.

435 – Take My Life, and Let It Be

1. Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be swift and purposeful for thee.
3. Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee;
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
4. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
5. Take my love: my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.



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