

7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 11th 2021



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

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 word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.
Deuteronomy 30.14

Collect

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. May we find peace in your service, and in the world to come, see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

2 SAMUEL 6:1-5, 12B-19;

PSALM 24;

EPHESIANS 1:3-14;

MARK 6:14-29

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2021-07-11&submit=show+new+date>

Reflection for Sunday July 11th - The Rev'd Rick Jones

It was a real pleasure to be able to attend Enrique's first Eucharist Celebration last Sunday at St. John's Church, Pt. Rowan. This was a real milestone for him and his family overcoming countless obstacles to arrive at this moment! The service felt like a family affair with folks coming together for the first time in months to receive the Eucharist, it has been almost a year for me, and the joy of seeing Enrique moving into his new Sacramental ministry. The creases from the box were still on his new Chasuble, but his face radiated pure joy at being able to wear it! The sermon was delivered by The Rev'd Paul Sherwood, Enrique's mentor, who has been assisting him since he first arrived as a student at St. Andrew's, Turkey Point, last summer. It was a great sermon in which Paul conveyed the central theme of the reading, the Gospel and the Church: "God's love for the world." The service concluded with us saying our congratulations on the front lawn, somewhat socially distanced, but wearing masks, and wishing him the best for his new ministry as the new Rector of Long Point Bay Parish. This Sunday, weather permitting, he will be offering his first Outdoor Eucharists at Memorial Church, Pt. Ryerse and at St. John's, Woodhouse, and everyone there will be very excited to participate in these events, which, given all we have been through, are symbols of hope for the future.

As I was driving home, I was thinking of Paul's sermon and that oft proclaimed wisdom that the central message of Christianity is God's love. I think Rev. Jack will be saying something more about what this in his video for this week. I was thinking, as I drove, how difficult it is for people to really believe that Jesus' message was that God loved them, not just loved them if they were good, or righteous, or worthy but loved unconditionally! I think even the Church had trouble with this message, as over the years, churches have created systems that basically say, "God only loves you if you believe what we believe." or, "God only loves you if you follow our rules." So once again, there are the righteous and the sinners, being righteous only means you are in the correct club. Believe me, being an Anglican will definitely put you in the sinner's column in the minds of some churches.

No wonder people are confused about what we actually mean when we Christians say to people, "God loves you." They have reason to be sceptical if they have been refused baptism, or marriage, or have felt judged and rejected by religious people. The churches are more known for judging others than for "unconditional love." What is G.K. Chesterton was correct when he said, "*The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been tried and found difficult; and left untried.*"

It has always been easier for us mortals to judge others, thereby making ourselves feel better, if only for a moment. We are known for our scapegoating, or trying to control others with guilt and shame. Every society seems to be created on the idea that some are worthy and most are not. The churches, as institutions, have found it very convenient to ignore Jesus core message and that of Paul and others who proclaimed a radical new way of relating to one another called variously, the "kingdom of God", or "the new creation" or "being one in Christ".

So, let's be clear then about what we mean when we say, "God loves you." I wish we could all agree on what that meant! Are we really talking about unconditional love, you don't need to measure up, or believe the correct things, or even do the right things? Does God love those we consider evil, wrong, or unworthy for some reason? Does God love the Hitler's, racists, abusers, pedophiles, or so many others we could name?

If you honestly look at Jesus ministry, and not at what the churches have done with it, he seemed to be saying, "Yes, this is the Good News, God created each and every one of you and in spite of what you may do or say, you are loved, unconditionally." We as human people always need scapegoats, or others that can be judged to be unworthy for some reason or another. This has been true throughout history. Is Jesus saying, "The Good News is that in spite of what others think and say, you are loved by God.?" Jesus'

ministry reinforces this message. He ate with outcasts and sinners, the worst people according to his society, and brought the message, "God loves even you, in spite of everything you have done or could do. This is God's choice not your decision. I know some of you are already thinking, "But what about the truly evil things that people do, surely there must be some hell to punish people, God can't love everyone the same way." I can't find anything in Jesus' teachings or actions that would indicate that anyone was outside of God's love. And it's not conditional on anything. Even as Jesus was dying, a cruel and unfair death, he said, "Father forgive them." We are the ones who need judgement and revenge and what we call justice, not Jesus or God. Jesus seemed to think that truly understanding and believing that you were loved would "save you" and transform your life. You cannot truly love others unless you can feel loved. This is the message of salvation. This may not be what you believe about God's love, and many people in religion will find ways to qualify God's love to suit their agenda, (which is always based on some authority like selective reading of the Bible or the Pope or whatever, which allows them to judge others). What happened to leaving the judgements to God, and think about the transformative power of unconditional love?

What if Jesus really meant it when he said, "Love God, Love yourself and Love others as much as yourself.?" The result of this would be compassion for others, not judgement. That we would truly care for others unselfishly. There could be no arbitrary divisions, racism, sexism, nationalism, (no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for you are one in Christ) Gal. 3:28

This would be the beginning of transformation of a world from judgement, and conflict to love and peace. Is this the "ideal of Christianity" that really hasn't been tried!

I have trouble thinking about it, let alone experiencing it myself, most people do. Our default conditioning is we are unworthy, and we need to do the right things to be loved, and its natural to judge others, but what if that isn't true? Just as a prayerful moment, I invite you to close your eyes, take a few belly breaths, and try and feel God's love for you. Not because of anything you have done, we are all a mix of helpful and unhelpful actions, but just because you have been born, are alive, here and now, and you are inherently loved and loveable. (Made in the image of God a Child of God). Now after a while of trying to feel that in your heart, change it to everyone is loved by God. If you want a challenge think of people that you don't like or are in conflict with. Could you feel God's love coming from you to them? After a time of trying this end your prayer with a thanks to Jesus for the message of love. Amen. Please don't judge yourself whatever your reactions to this exercise might be. That would defeat the whole purpose. Just observe how you are with this unconditional love. Please try it, you may be surprised what you discover.

Archdeacon Rick Jones, rickplus@gmail.com



Prayers for Sunday 11 June, 2021 (*Compiled by Dorothy Koorn*) - simcoecleanair@gmail.com

Across the barriers that divide race from race:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide rich from poor:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide people of different cultures:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide Christians:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide men and women, young and old:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Confront us, O Christ, with the hidden prejudices and fears
that deny and betray our prayers.

Enable us to see the causes of strife, remove from us all senses of superiority.

Teach us to grow in unity with all God's children.

(Nolan Palsma, Pitcher Hill Community Church, North Syracuse, NY)

Almighty God, all thoughts of truth and peace proceed from you.

Kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace.

Guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel
for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(From the Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland, St. Andrew Press)

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 11 July 2021, we will be praying for the **Ven. Janet Griffith** (interim), the **Rev. John Ogilvie**, the Rev. **Jack Cox**, the **Rev. Canon Bob Schroeder**, the **Rev. Margaret Shortell** and the people of **St. Mark's, 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., Ian M. Carol M., Elaine B., George F., and family and anyone known to you.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)

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 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 Parish Video

<https://youtu.be/eV7HeQka96k>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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/anniversaries/special occasions in July – 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.

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



Sing along to this morning's hymns

Hymn Texts - Sunday, July 11, 2021

#40 – O Spirit of the Living God

1. O Spirit of the living God, in all the fullness of thy grace,
Wherever human foot hath trod, descend on our rebellious race.
2. Give tongues of fire and hearts of love to preach the reconciling word;
Give power and unction from above where'er the joyful sound is heard.
3. Be darkness at thy coming, light; confusion, order in thy path;
Souls without strength in spite with might; bid mercy triumph over wrath.
4. O Spirit of the Lord, prepare all the round earth its God to meet;
Breathe thou abroad like morning air, til hearts of stone begin to beat.
5. Baptize the nations; far and nigh the triumphs of the cross record;
The name of Jesus glorify, till every kindred call him Lord.

#210 – Yours Be the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son

1. Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory over death you won.
Angels robed in splendor rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grace clothes where your body lay.
*Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory over death you won.*
2. See! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord is living; death has lost its sting!
*Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory over death you won.*
3. No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life:
What is life without you? Aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors through your deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to your home above.
*Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory over death you won.*