

**9th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 25th 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**

A great prophet has arisen among us! God has visited his people!

*Luke 7.16*

**Collect**

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Readings**

2 SAMUEL 11:1-15;

PSALM 14;

EPHESIANS 3:14-21;

JOHN 6:1-21

You'll remember that I've said on a number of occasions that God doesn't think or evaluate the way we do – or perhaps the way we've been taught to. The 1st reading this Sunday is a good example. Remember when David was chosen to be king of Israel, he was not the oldest, or the strongest of Jesse's sons (those were the normal criteria for selection to a high office such as King). Not only is David not the strongest of his brothers, he is not the most moral of them either. Even as King of Israel, David has an illicit relationship with Bathsheba (the wife of one of David's commanders). David manoeuvres to put Uriah (Bathsheba's husband) in the front line of the next battle and then has the army fall back leaving Uriah defenceless. Uriah is killed. It is the child of that relationship between David and Bathsheba (Solomon) that succeeds David as King. Solomon is blessed with incredible wisdom and builds the 1<sup>st</sup> magnificent temple for Israel. Does this tell you anything about how God 'thinks' about or responds to us?

Why do I point out these kinds of things? I do it so that we don't presume we always know what God is asking or not asking of us (I'm not good enough, holy enough, wise enough). It is so that we try always to remain open to the voice of God, the choices of God and never presume we know what God is asking of us or doing in our lives. To do that requires that we are listening as carefully as we can for the voice or the presence of God. And I would emphasize, that God is always speaking to us (or trying to speak to us if we'd just practice listening).

How do we 'listen' for the voice of God or 'look' for the presence of God? The process is really simple. The hardest part is remaining quiet, not 'doing' anything but waiting quietly, patiently – even when nothing seems to be happening. Let me give you one simple example. This is sometimes called the 'prayer of imagination'. I'll use a familiar text (Lk 2:8-14). It's the story of the shepherds from Luke's gospel – (but you can use any number of familiar texts). I use this text because it is familiar and not so complicated that we spend time trying to figure out what it means.

1. Pick a quiet and comfortable place (where you can sit/lie down – be undisturbed). Mark the place of your text and, if you prefer, tell God in a sentence or two why you're here (that's also so it's clear to you why you're here – what's your intention/hope). Take a moment to compose yourself, quiet your mind and heart and simply open yourself to God's presence. If God 'speaks' to you, moves you, just remain quietly receptive – listening, receiving. If nothing happens, pick up the text and read it very slowly – savouring each word. See the scene unfolding in your imagination – what do you see? What do you hear? When you've finished reading, set the text down and try to see the scene you've just read. What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel? Can you simply be at that scene in your imagination? Simply try to be passively receptive/present. Sit with that for about 10 minutes. If something 'happens' stay quietly with that, if nothing happens repeat the process from the quiet slow reading.

(Just as an aside, don't forget that shepherds were people that no one wanted to have a relationship with, shepherds were the lowest of the low in 1<sup>st</sup> century Palestine.)

This is a basic form for contemplation. It is a quiet, often wordless way of being present and receptive to God. It really is simple but may take some practice to become familiar and comfortable with the process so that the process itself isn't a distraction.

This quiet 'listening' form of prayer is built on the belief that God seeks a real, personal relationship with each of us (we are important enough, valuable enough, good enough in God's eyes). And God will go to any lengths to show us that love and care if we just give God a chance – and even when we don't, God never gives up on us!) As an aside, I grew up in a church that was definitely 'sin' focused – a church where I never felt good enough. Trust me, if God throws screw-ups to the

curb (as I was taught to believe) I'd have spent my life there. But my experience of God has been consistently: "Oh my, look at the mess you've gotten yourself into! Here, let me help you up, let's dust you off, and we'll carry on down the road together.")

May you listen for God's voice as you journey. May you hear and experience God's presence. And may you experience God's loving and healing care in the worst of times as well as in the best of times of your life.



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## Prayers of the People from Jack Addison

Eternal God, we offer you our gratitude for your many mercies bestowed upon us so generously. You lend us life and you lend us each day, many of which we take for granted. Help us to affirm and use and appreciate each day as your gift to us. You provide so graciously for us. We thank you that we live in a land which has been so blessed with abundance. We have the opportunity for a quality of life and an abundance of goods which is unequalled in human history. Help us to count our blessings and always to give you thanks.

Give us the will to share our gifts in order to impact our world and to make it a better place. Use this church and expand the ministry of each of us. When we would be tempted to falter give us courage and a greater vision. Give us the courage to be your faithful people.

Thanks be to God

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 25 July 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Paul Sherwood** and the people of **Trinity, Simcoe**.

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., George F., and family and anyone known to 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](mailto:lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com) or Enrique at [enrique6921@gmail.com](mailto: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/8nDdnuqkerA>

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There will be a service at Woodhouse this morning at 11am – Led by Rev. Father Paul Sherwood

If you have anything you would like to contribute or comment on. Any good movies you've seen or books you have read. Do you have memories you want to share? Please send them to Rev. Enrique and he can include in the newspaper.

Any birthdays/anniversaries/special occasions in July/August – 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](mailto: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](mailto:lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com) or by phone @ 519-586-7034**

**Please visit our website [parishoflongpointbay.com](http://parishoflongpointbay.com) and Facebook page**

## Sing along to this morning's hymns

Hymn Texts - Sunday, July 25, 2021

### **# 432 – Jesus Calls Us! O'er the Tumult**

1. Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult of our life's wild restless sea,  
Day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me!"
2. As of old Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,  
Turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for his dear sake.
3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,  
From each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."
4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."
5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Saviour, may we hear thy call,  
Give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

### **#567 – Eternal Father, Strong to Save**

1. Eternal Father, strong to save,  
whose arm restrains the restless wave,  
Who bids the mighty ocean deep  
its own appointed bounds to keep:  
We cry, O God of majesty,  
for those in peril on the sea.
2. O Christ, whose voice the waters heard  
and hushed their raging at your word,  
Who walked across the surging deep  
and in the storm lay calm in sleep:  
We cry, O Lord of Galilee,  
for those in peril on the sea.
3. Creator Spirit, by whose breath  
Were fashioned sea and sky and earth;  
Who made the stormy chaos cease  
And gave us life and light and peace:  
We cry, O Spirit strong and free,  
For those in peril on the sea.
4. O Trinity of love and power,  
Preserve their lives in danger's hour;



From rock and tempest, flood and flame,  
Protect them by your holy name,  
And to your glory let there be  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.