

Baptism of the Lord
January 10th 2021



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 voice came from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."
Matthew 3.17

Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit, keep your children, born of water and the Spirit, faithful to their calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Gen. 1: 1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19: 1-7

MK. 1: 4-11

You are my Son, the Beloved”



Good Morning sisters and brothers;

I hope that this reflection finds you well and in good spirit.

It seems contradictory for John to go to the desert to proclaim his message. Why not go to the city where more people lived? That is because the desert has a deeper meaning and connection to the Jewish, a sense of gratitude and fortune for they had been set free from slavery and into the desert by God himself. It was in the there that they truly became a nation.

In the desert we see how the beloved son of God (Israel) is turning from sin and is purifying his life to recognize God, his creator, his beloved King.

It is here that John the Baptist "preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins" (v. 4). "John's baptism recalls and revives the fundamental covenant with Israel at Sinai in which all the people were called to be *"my kingdom of priests and holy people"* (Exodus 19: 6; 23:22; also 1 Peter 2: 9) For the Israelites it symbolizes the acceptance of their covenant relationship with God by washing their clothes and purifying themselves before entering the covenant at Sinai and receiving the promised land (Exodus 19:10)"

When we want to be beloved children of God, we have to exchange our guilt for love of God and our neighbor.

The Greek word, metanoia, (Guilt) means a change of mind. When we learn a new and better way of thinking, we naturally respond by acting on our beliefs. If our previous ways hurt us and others, we will probably feel sorry for walking in those paths and guilt for the damage we have caused. In that sense, guilt is part of regret, but it is something on the fringes rather than the core.

This is why the truth is important to the people of Israel. In the desert the Israelites met God and became God's people.

It is here in that same certain way where God manifests himself to his people, it is here where our Lord Jesus Christ wants to meet those who seek to be children of the God of love.

the baptism of Jesus and the open heaven where God baptizes Jesus with the holy spirit and gives him to the nations to receive his beloved son.

It is through that same Jesus that we become children of God. It is Jesus who shows us the Father with his words and deeds.

Today the gospel invites us to be those beloved children of God. Those children who washed with the blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ and baptized into his death and resurrection, let us see the brother as another self that seeks the Master.

Today Jesus calls us to throw away all those guilt that we carry in our hearts, today Jesus tells us it was not your fault that this or that happened. God wants to tell you that He loves you, that any wound that you have in your heart can be healed, that everything that hurts you can be healed, but you have to go to the desert, to solitude, to silence and become uncontrived with Him, and then the Holy Spirit will come upon each one of us and will fill us with that infinite love of the Father.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are God's beloved children and if something is important to us for God, it is important and if you want something, ask for it with faith.: *“Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ it will be done. 22 Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.”*

Remember that you are never alone, and that nothing can separate us from the love of the God who made us all.

Let us pray

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

God Bless you. Dios los colme de bendiciones

Amen.

Through our Baptism we are joined to Christ as God's beloved children. As sisters and brothers in the Spirit, let us call to God for the needs of the world and the church saying, Lord, in your mercy.

Let us pray for the church, that it may stand fast in the one faith to which it has been called. Lord, in your mercy.

Let us pray for the world, that our conflicts may cease and that peace may reign in this new year. Lord, in your mercy.

Let us pray for all Christians who have been baptized into the one family of faith, that our lives reflect the forgiveness and love which was first shown us. Lord, in your mercy.

Let us pray for our Local, Provincial and Federal Governments that they allocate the necessary resources to combat this pandemic. We pray that the vaccine will be administered in a fair and speedy rollout. Lord, in your mercy.

We pray for the lonely, especially during these times of Lockdown, those with mental health challenges, those who feel isolated, anxious and helpless. Comfort them that they may know your light during this time of darkness. Lord, in your mercy.

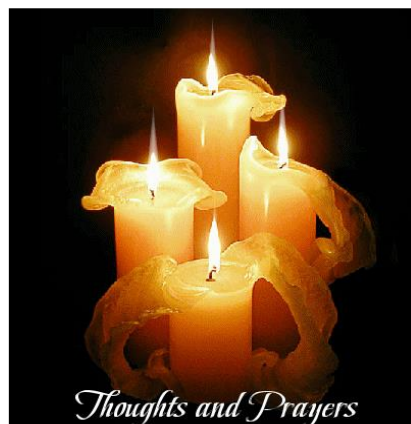
Omniscient God, you know our thoughts and needs better than we ourselves. Accept the prayers which we now offer, and strengthen us to do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 January 10th 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Kendall Reimer-Johnston** and the people of the **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.

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.



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=f2_0GUta4Ec

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

All In-Person Worship Services in the Diocese of Huron Suspended



Dear friends,

In light of the increasing case counts of COVID-19 throughout our diocese, Bishop Townshend, out of care for the health of our parishioners and communities, has made the decision that the Diocese will reinstitute the Diocese of Huron's Loving Our Neighbour Red Stage guidelines, effective immediately. No in-person worship is permitted in any of our churches until further notice. The Red Stage Guidelines may be found [here](#).

While the lockdown ordered by the provincial government does not start until Boxing Day, this decision is being made following the advice of medical professionals and epidemiologists who have stated that "the earlier work starts, the lower the case numbers will be." "All of us staying home may help prevent cases of COVID from further spreading in our communities. While it will be extremely difficult for us not to worship in-person at this most holy time, we are comforted by the belief that the Christ Child still comes to each of us as he came first to a dark and difficult world.

There have been some modifications to our Red Stage guidelines since the summer, including:

Worship

- Live-streaming or recording the Eucharist (as well as Services of the Word) is permitted with no more than five (5) persons present including those running the video equipment. Care must be taken not to show those present receiving the Eucharist as this is an extremely personal moment for most. The bishop asks that parishes refrain from offering prayers for spiritual communion or sending out such prayers for those at home to use during that time in the service. Currently, there is no settled teaching in our church on the meaning of spiritual communion in a digital liturgical medium. For now, we can simply trust the Holy Spirit to do what the Spirit wills as we are open to the Spirit
- All persons must wear facemasks except when assisting in leading the service when face masks may be removed if no closer than 12 feet (4m) to others. Facemasks should be worn during the celebration of the Eucharist.
- Any soloists/singers used in the live-stream or recorded worship must be masked as well as maintaining 12 feet (4pm) distance between them and any other person unless the only other persons present are of the same household.
- Funerals or weddings, whether indoor or outdoor, may only have a maximum of 10 persons present.

Parish Offices

- At this time, in accordance with the province's directives that all non-essential businesses be closed, parish staff should only be in the building when absolutely necessary.
- Any permissions previously given for outdoor services with greater than 10 people or other exceptions to our guidelines are rescinded until this current state of lockdown is lifted.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have any questions.

May Christ's Peace be with you,

Tanya+

The Venerable Tanya Phibbs

Archdeacon of Huron

Sing along to this morning's hymns

Hymn 103 – On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry

1. On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within.
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Hymn 635 – Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

1. Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigour of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.
2. To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the vine,
to the church in faith assembled, to her midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.
3. With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.



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

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page