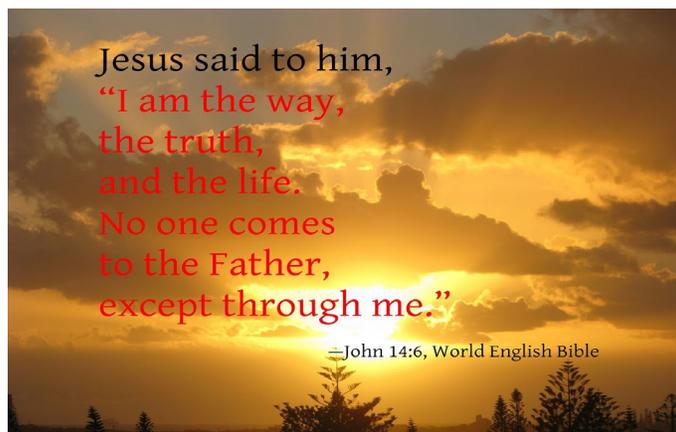


5th Sunday of Easter
May 10th, 2020



Opening

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

Sentence

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, but by me.

John 14.6

Collect

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

READINGS

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5,15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Easter 5 Reflection

It has now been 9 weeks since services at our churches were suspended. Since then we have experienced a very different Holy Week and Easter and your worship team has tried to keep our worshipping community connected through weekly devotional bulletins and a video experience of music and a short reflection from Rev. Jack Cox or me. More recently we have started sending out monthly devotional bulletins for our members who do not have email or internet. This has kept us in touch with one another and even apart we are praying together. However, for many of us, this will be the first Easter in living memory that we didn't partake in a Holy Communion service. We see in our Prayer Book that all Anglicans are required to partake of Holy Communion, "frequently, and particularly on the greatest Holy-days, of which Easter is the chief." BCP p.66 Just as many of us felt grief at not being able to sit down together with family for a meal at Easter, so we also missed sitting down with one another, and Jesus, for a sacred meal. It is unclear at this time when it will be safe for us to return to Eucharistic Services again. It is much easier to imagine being able to socially distance for a service of music and the Word. Our Diocese has a team working on guidelines for opening up our churches again and we have no report yet from them. It will probably be some time before we know anything definitive, and even then, those of us who are higher risk, older or with pre-existing conditions, will probably want to wait until there is a vaccine or the virus is neutralized in some way.

This is the bad news, the good news is that this situation forces us to look deeper into our Sacrament of Holy Communion. We believe that the bread and wine become for the believer the Body and Blood of Christ, a Holy Meal that makes us Holy in sharing it. The Church members are the Body of Christ and in sharing Communion we become one with God and one with one another. This doesn't just happen for a few minutes on a Sunday that we are in church, but is a lived reality all the time. We certainly recharge our spiritual batteries when we receive Communion but it doesn't change the fact that as St. Augustine said, "Behold what you are, become what you eat." We were Baptised into the Body of Christ and can and should be Christ to all we meet. One of the things this means to me is that Holy Communion happens when we smile, when we care, when we comfort, when we encourage and when we serve and love as Jesus taught. This is just as powerful and real as the Sacrament we take on Sunday, which is not an end unto itself, but rather "food for the journey" of faith and love of one another.

So we can take heart that one day we will once again receive this spiritual food but in the meantime we can be food for one another as we love one another as Jesus loved us. So, the next time you care, smile, encourage, or in any way reach out in love you are Christ in Holy Communion to another and when someone smiles, encourages and reaches out to you in love you are truly Blessed in return! May you become Christ to all you meet this week and be blessed by the Risen Christ,

Archdeacon Rick Jones

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE –prepared by Dorothy Koorn

We are a world that is desperate for you, God.

When powers struggle for dominance

and war, oppression and abuse result;

When groups of people oppose one another

because of ideology, religion, or culture;

We pray to a Father who is mightier than ourselves

and our personal interests.

Thousands of lives have been lost in drug wars in Mexico, Colombia, and Ecuador. There are continuing religious/geographical tensions between India and Pakistan, and cruel dictatorships and conflict in Venezuela, North Korea and parts of Africa and the Middle East.

When people are disregarded and devalued

because of poverty, geography or disease;

When compassion and justice is withheld to some

because of sexuality, race or gender;

We pray to a Saviour who is more compassionate than we are,

Who includes even those we would exclude.

Over 70 Countries have anti LGBT laws with penalties ranging from minimal to execution. Racism, sexism, age, and gender discrimination seem to be universal.

When resources are mismanaged and abused,

and the world and its creatures are destroyed;

When motivation is scarce, and creativity is in short supply

to address the challenges that we face.

We pray to a Spirit who is more powerful and more creative than we could ever be.

Oceans and seas have floating islands of plastic, air, water, and soil pollution contaminate the globe, and the need for clean-up is not being treated seriously.

When COVID-19 sweeps across the world, disrupting industry, commerce, and leisure,

When information and misinformation cause fear and anxiety,

And health professionals, first responders and essential workers are at risk:

We pray to a Triune God who is mightier, more compassionate, and more creative

Than His people here on earth.

Lord God, strengthen, protect, and comfort all those affected by the pandemic and inspire the researchers and scientists to develop treatments and vaccines for the protection of your people.

We pray, also, for parishioners and friends in need of God's healing touch upon their lives:

Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Andrea P., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Kathleen C-S., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Jerry M., Diane H., Delores B., and anyone known to all who following these prayers.

We pray for our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes. We especially remember: June, Shirley, Iris, Everett, Julie, David, John, Anna, and Ron.

A special Covid-19 prayer for : Elvira P., Freda E.,

On this Mother's Day we offer prayers and give thanks for mothers everywhere.

Loving God, Compassionate Saviour, Empowering Spirit,

we offer you these prayers

because we need you so desperately.

Captivate us, call us, and fill us,

that we may be carriers of your eternal life

to this world that you love so dearly.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If there are any changes to the prayer list or shut in list, please either let AD Rick or Anne Halls know at the at the contact information below.

We are also going to start a COVID-19 prayer list. If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them during this pandemic, we will put on the list for a month.

Please click on the link below to watch AD Rick's video for this week

<https://youtu.be/f0khBdjkaJs>

At this extraordinary time if you wish a telephone visit please call the Rector. If you have any other announcements or news contact Anne Halls at the contacts below.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Archdeacon Rick Jones can be contacted by email rickplus@gmail.com or by phone @ 905 537 0324

Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at lbbparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page