

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2nd 2021



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 vine, you are the branches, says the Lord. Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

John 15.5

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.

Reading

ACTS 8:26-40;

PSALM 22:24-30;

1 JOHN 4:7-21;

JOHN 15:1-8

Reflection for 5th Sunday of Easter from rev Jack Cox – revjackcox@gmail.com

Good morning members of the Long Point Bay community, Happy Easter 5. What good news can we bring to each other this week. How can we say to each other, “In the midst of death, we are in life!” I’m sure none of us would argue with the ‘death’ part in the middle of this third, and worst wave of this pandemic. But what Easter hope do we bring to each other this week?

First, I can tell you that the Blood Roots have blossomed and are gone. Adder’s tongues are in full bloom and I now see the trillium blooming.

The Spring Peepers are now singing their hearts out. They are a tiny frog, about the size of the 1st knuckle of my thumb and they begin their spring mating with ‘singing’. Alison, my wife, calls it screeching but I think it much more melodious than that. I really love hearing them vocalizing in the wetlands, calling to their mates in the spring. The Redwing blackbirds are back, calling and displaying that beautiful red flash on their wings to attract a mate.

Spring has returned. The earth is again giving birth after the death of winter.

As I was walking a trail yesterday, so many of these sights and sounds of spring surrounded me, I was suddenly overwhelmed by so many indications of the presence of God. I know there are sights and sounds always around me reminding me and calling me to God’s presence, but yesterday just seemed exceptional.

So, is Jesus risen and present? Absolutely! Is Jesus accessible? No doubt about it! Will he continue to accompany us on our journey? No question about it. So, my prayer for all of us on this 5th Sunday of Easter is that we have the eyes of faith, so that, like those 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus, we might recognize Jesus when he walks with us on our challenging and difficult roads, and that we will hear him when he both challenges us and encourages us on this road? Note that I said “when...” not ‘if’

‘If...’ is not the question. I can promise you it will happen. Jesus does continue to walk with us and talk with us – maybe even in the voices of the spring peepers. The only question is, will I see when it happens? Will I hear when it happens? I can promise you - if we’re willing to keep looking and if we’re willing to keep listening, we will see and we will hear God’s presence – even on the good Fridays and the Easter days!

Journey well!

Jack



A Reflection from The Rev'd Dr. Justin Comber Rector The Anglican Parish of the Transfiguration - justincomber@diohuron.org (519) 809 9452

Today's reading from the First Letter of St. John begins this way;

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

This reading directs all of our attention towards God-our-source and the defining Love of God for us. All of our readings this week say something about our identity, about identities and the one defining love of God.

The book of Acts offers one person's identity as a test of God's love and concludes that God's love, that baptism into Christ, is identity enough.

The Gospel of John suggests explicitly what is implied in Acts—that the Christian identity is defined first and foremost by Christ. He is the vine and we are branches. To be found in Christ is to receive—definitively—the love of God and to bear much fruit.

Being identified in Christ offers love as the answer to every question. If the question is about mercy, then let us love one another, for love is from God. If the question is about belonging, let us love one another, for love is from God. If our question is about mission, let us love one another, for love is from God.

In our reading from Acts, Phillip the evangelist meets a stranger. The book goes to great lengths to identify the stranger. It offers his station, his nationality, his political allegiance, and his social status. Details like this are never unimportant. We are meant to ask, what about this person? This story, like many in Acts, asks the question of belonging. In this story the man identified as an Ethiopian uncut of the royal court is found reading the scriptures. Phillip asks him if he understands, and he indicates that he needs explanation. Phillip offers Christ. The implicit, not yet stated question, is; “Can the body of Christ expand to include this person?” “Will the kingdom move farther from its centre in Jerusalem with this encounter?” “What defines belonging to the Kingdom of God?” We know the answer. God's love is the answer. But what about all of the details? We are meant to ask the question that he asks next; “What is to prevent me from being baptized?” We already know the answer. The Kingdom of God is shaped by God's love for us. Yes, he can be baptized. How can God's people deny another who is equally loved by God? Let us love one another, because love is from God.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. Abide in me as I abide in you. I am the vine; you are the branches.

Jesus is our source. Our only claim, and the greatest claim, is that we are members of Jesus' body, filled with the Holy Spirit, and Children of God. We, each of us belong to one another because we belong to Christ. We belong to one another because we have been baptized into Christ. We understand one another as members of Christ's body. We identify one another as branches, equally dependent on Christ-our-source, sustained and defined by his love for us. And all love—the greatest fruit of the Spirit—comes from God. And so, defined by Christ, baptized into Christ, alive in Christ our source and vine, we love one another. For all love is from God.

Amen.

Prayers of the People for 5th Sunday of Easter

Friends, there is no fear in love, **but** perfect love casts out fear.
So let us boldly pray to God saying, "Loving God, put your words in our heart".

Great vine-grower, remove anything in your Church that hinders our love.
May we abide in your Son Jesus. May He abide in us.
We want to bear much fruit; we want to be disciples of your Son.
(Pause now, take a deep breath, and think about what you are asking)
"Loving God, put your words in our heart".

Ruler of the nations, under your reign the poor shall eat and be satisfied:
Make known your saving deeds to the ends of the earth.
(Pause)
"Loving God, put your words in our heart".

Creator God, you nourish our bodies with the fruits of the earth.
Give us eyes to see your presence in our world;
Give us words to witness your goodness.
*(Please add your own thanksgivings then-
Pause)*
"Loving God, put your words in our heart".

Good Teacher, you sent Philip to the Ethiopian
so that he could be transformed by understanding:
Bless all our places of learning from primary schools to colleges and universities.
Give wisdom and understanding to all those who teach and to all those who learn.
(Pause)
"Loving God, put your words in our heart".

O God, you are love. You love us so much.
We Pray for our brothers and sisters, especially those in great need.
Increase our love for them; teach us empathy.
Bless them with your healing touch.
(Please add your own special petitions then-Pause)
"Loving God, put your words in our heart".

Almighty God, who truly to know is everlasting life:
May your love be an eternal abode for all your saints.
(Pause)
"Loving God, put your words in our heart". 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.

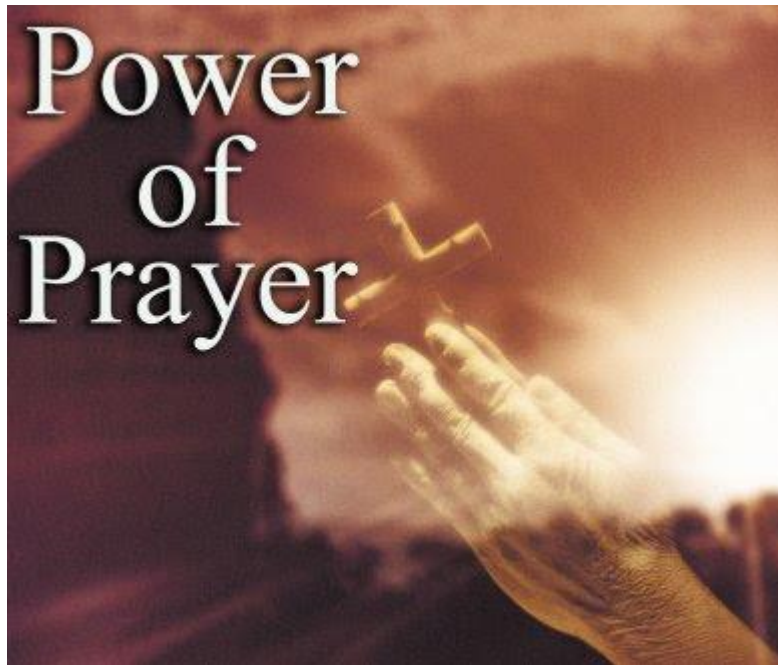
For the week beginning Sunday May 2, 2021, we will be praying for the **Ven. Janet Griffith** (interim), the **Rev. John Ogilvie**, the **Rev. Jack Cox**, the **Rev. Canon Bob Schroeder**, the **Rev. Margaret Shortell** and the people of **St. Mark's, Brantford**.

We pray for our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes.
Especially remembering: 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 H., and anyone known to you.

May David Howes rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.
“Loving God, put your words in our heart”. Amen.

May Sylvia Brady rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.
“Loving God, put your words in our heart”. Amen.



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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 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 Parish video

https://youtu.be/tRGzz_fvGNE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the continued threat of COVID-19 in our area, in person Church services remain suspended. We will continue with our online services.

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 May – 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.

Sing along to this morning's hymns

Hymn Texts – Sunday, May 2, 2021

#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.



#60 – I Come with Joy

1. I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me.
2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread.
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends,
The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends.
4. The spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
Is in such friendship better know, alive among us here.
5. Together met, together bound, by all that God has done,
We'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one.



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