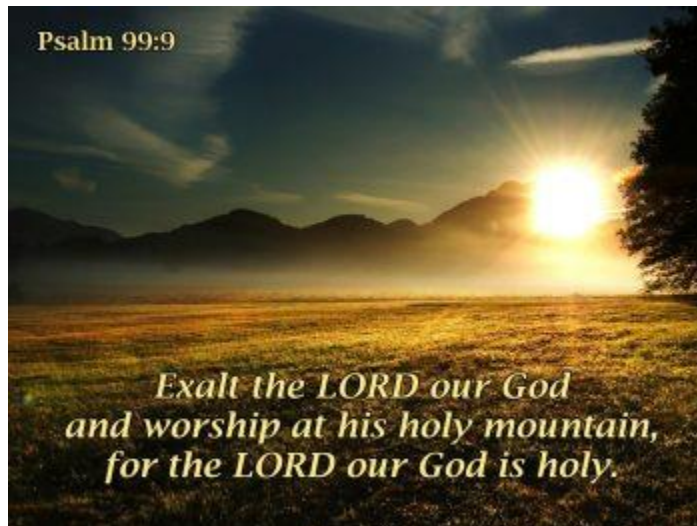


Pentecost 20
October 18th 2020



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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

Shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life.

See Philippians 2.15, 16

Collect

Almighty and everliving God, increase in us your gift of faith, that forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

EXODUS 33:12-23;

PSALM 99;

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10;

MATTHEW 22:15-22

Click on the link below to open the readings for this week

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2020-10-18&submit=show+new+date>

Reflection for October 18th

Good morning, members of the Longpoint Bay community. We're dealing this morning with Matthew 22:15-22. For the most part, Jesus' response here is not often understood. Remember that Jesus' response was to the question by the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not?" Now obviously they're referring to Jewish law since, under Roman, law there would be no question. As the opening sentence of this unit makes clear it's a question meant to entrap Jesus. If he says "No" the Romans would throw him in jail, if he says "Yes" the Jewish leaders would accuse him of collaboration with the Romans. As soon as Jesus says, "Render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar" we all stop thinking. Jesus has just approved of taxes.

Before going further, let me pause and set a context that I think most of us miss – and it makes all the difference in the world in understanding the incredible response Jesus makes.

Remember a few weeks ago, God was identified with a simple phrase: "I am the God who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." God is a liberator from oppression. God was not in bed with the Pharos, God was not complicit in the oppression of the Pharos but lifted his people out of such oppression. So why would Jesus approve of, be complicit in, the obvious economic oppression of Rome? (and make no mistake about it, Roman taxation was hugely oppressive).

But let's look at the entirety of Jesus' response; "Render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." Think about that second part. What belongs to God? Or, maybe to make it simpler, What does not belong to God? The simple answer to "What belongs to God?" is "Everything!" or "What does not belong to God?" "Nothing!" There is nothing that does not belong to God. Think about that, if you believe what I have suggested, what, then, belongs to Caesar? Exactly! But most never get that.

Let me press this a little further. If everything belongs to God, what about all my 'stuff'? (and believe me when I tell you I have had a **LOT** of 'stuff'). At this point in my life, I can honestly say, I'm beginning to understand that it's all 'gift'! I could say I worked hard for all those 'gifts'. But I really know, when I'm honest with myself, that a lot of people have worked a whole lot harder than I have for a whole lot less. There is no doubt in my mind that I have been richly blessed.

So, again at this point in my life, how do I give to God what belongs to God? I think, first of all by living out of a spirit of gratitude rather than entitlement. It's holding what I have with an open hand and not a tight fist. It's also recognizing that God has hauled me out of more Egypts than I care to count. So I find myself asking, "Are there some around me still struggling in their 'Egypt' and how can I help?"

So, this Harvest Thanksgiving, I'm asking myself how I can feed those around me still stuck in their Egypt and don't even know it yet?

Happy Harvest Thanksgiving!

From Rev Jack Cox - revjackcox@gmail.com

Prayers of the People from Dorothy Koorn - simcoecleanair@gmail.com

O God, you gently whisper Amidst the noise of ideologies and agendas,

O God, you gently whisper Amidst the cacophony of rhetoric and propaganda,

O God, you gently whisper Amidst the madness of war, the chaos of power-games; the crying of grief, the discordance of disease, the crowding of poverty, the empty echo of wealthy isolation, you whisper your words of love to every broken heart, you breathe your call of justice to every heartless tyrant.

And we who have heard the gentle rhythm of your voice, praise you for your quiet proclamation of grace, and thank you for your gentle presence among us; even as we offer ourselves to be quiet voices and muted lives proclaiming in every moment your whispers of love and justice.

And, Lord God, we pray for your church throughout the world.

We pray for those who are sick in need or any kind of trouble especially:

Rick our interim Rector, Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, and Marinez Bishop of Amazonia. We pray also for the people of the Parish of Long Point Bay and all lay and clergy.

We pray also for **Rev. Paul Sherwood** and the people of **Trinity, Simcoe**.

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., Kathleen C-S., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Delores B., Dale F, Rose G. 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, Julie, David, John, Anna.

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 ljbparishsecretary@gmail.com or AD Rick at rickplus@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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Indoor Services to resume in a limited fashion.

The Diocese of Huron has instituted a “reopening” program called “Loving Our Neighbour”, this can be accessed on the Diocesan website. We are currently in the AMBER stage of this programme. This means that we can host indoor services and events like weddings and funerals. We have very strict protocols for indoor services that include, screening, masks and strict seating and social distancing rules. This has resulted in drastically reducing the numbers of people that can safely meet inside the church. Unfortunately, we are not permitted to sing in the church but we can have communion in a creative way without needing to move from our seats.

Note that not every church will be holding a service every week as in the past. It will be as it was before, with Holy Communion every second week but the Morning Prayer services in between have been cancelled. This allows us to safely monitor the health of our congregations over two-week periods. Not all parishes or congregations are required to offer indoor services but it has become an option that we are exploring carefully. Your safety is our paramount concern, we know this pandemic is not over.

Council Meeting

Our last Council meeting with A.D. Rick is set for Wednesday Oct.21 at 4:00 pm in the Parish Hall at St. John's Port Rowan

Services:

There will be indoor Eucharist services today at:

Pt Ryerse at 9:30 and Woodhouse 11am

Then there will be the following Eucharist service:

Sunday October 25th St John's Port Rowan at 9:30

**Your Long Point Bay Regular Service can be found here:
Please click on the link to watch this week's video**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrXKAApP1Kc&feature=youtu.be>

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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.

**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 lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or
by phone @ 519-586-7034**

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page