

Pentecost 21
October 25th 2020



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

If you love me, you will keep my word, and my Father will love you, and we will come to you.

John 14.23

Collect

Lord God our Redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery, free us from the tyranny of sin and death, and by the leading of your Spirit bring us to your promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

Readings

Deuteronomy 34.1–12

Psalm 90.1–6, 13–17

1 Thessalonians 2.1–8

Matthew 22.34-46

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

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2020-10-25&submit=show+new+date>

Reflection for October 25th

Over the last several days I've been reading the texts set for this Sunday, wondering what I would focus on. I was struck by God's decision that Moses would not lead the Israelites into the promised land. He had led them out of Egypt (no small feat that!) he led them through the wilderness – and all the experiences that formed them into being a people committed to the one God, YHWH - and now, on the verge of entering the promised land, he is told he can't lead the people into this promised land. Someone else would to do that. How unfair is that!

And suddenly our situation (the parish, the deanery) struck me. We're getting new leaders! No, Wait! We're doing just fine. Really! If it ain't broke, don't 'fix it!' And I really felt for Moses. (and for Joshua). Joshua will probably hear pretty quickly that old refrain, "We've never done it that way before." or "That's not how we do things." Despite the fact that I'm sure nobody in the Long Point Bay community would say that, I'm equally sure someone will think it.

That's not a bad thing. We are creatures of habit. Having grown up on a farm, I know how the livestock move from one pasture to another. And even if you didn't know, all you'd have to do is look at the pasture and you'd see 'the path' - not lots of paths but generally one path. Introduce a new animal and it would pretty quickly adjust to the one path.

No, I am not suggesting we're all a bunch of cattle. But we are a community of people – a community that has a history of working and playing, and praying together. And the way we establish that pattern is finding out, over time, what works and what doesn't. I'm sure Moses, after years and years of leading the Israelites in some difficult and challenging situations, had figured out what worked (for the most part). But you don't have to look far to find times when things went off the rails - even for Moses.

One of the things that the Israelites discovered over time, was that, no matter what the circumstances were, no matter who was leading them, God was always with them. And, ultimately, God would lead them where they needed to go.

As we face these challenging times, with new leaders, my final piece 'wisdom' is to always face these new and challenging times with prayer – but don't forget that all real prayer is at least 60% quiet listening.

God bless your continuing journey together!

From Rev Jack Cox - revjackcox@gmail.com

Prayers of the People from Colin Clarke - cmrclarke@gmail.com

Heavenly Father, through the Grace of your Holy Spirit and your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you continue to guide us through these difficult times of the global pandemic. You are our light, hope and source of comfort during what often seems like a very dark journey this year. Help us to keep faith that all is working according to your plan.

We give you praise for your unconditional love, and the reminder that we are to love each other as we love ourselves. This is even more vital these days as tempers fray and patience wears thin under the pressures of unemployment, poor health and disturbing instances of social injustices. Almighty God, we ask that you grant us the empathy and compassion to disagree without being disagreeable, and to listen with open hearts and minds.

Congratulations are extended to our Archdeacon Tim Dobbin, who has been appointed Dean of Niagara effective January 1st. This will be a big transition for him and his family, so we pray for it to be a smooth one, and ask, Father, that your hand continues to guide and protect them.

We thank you Father, for the blessing of our new minister, Enrique Martinez. We happily welcome him, his wife and their two children as they join our community this week. Thank you, Lord, for guiding the Selection Committee to make this choice. We pray for his success and happiness in his new role, and that all of us in the parish will continue to grow together with him in our knowledge and love of Christ.

Lastly, we give thanks and say a special "Thank you!" to our truly Venerable Rick, our Interim Rector, who exemplified the call of the spirit to action and kept us all uplifted over this past unprecedented year. May you continue to bless him and keep him in your favour.

We ask all this in the name of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

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. Bill Graham** (interim) and the people of **Trinity, Waterford**.

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.

We are currently in the AMBER stage of this programme. Details can be found at the Diocesan website. 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.

Services:

There will be an indoor Eucharist service:

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

Then there will be the following Eucharist services:

November 1st Pt Ryerse at 9:30 and Woodhouse 11am

**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=oKNXfjs6cpg&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 lbpbarishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page

