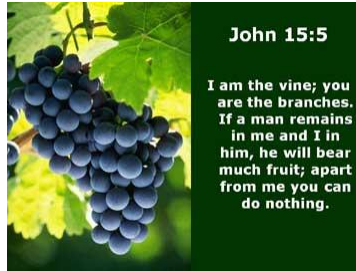


Pentecost 24
November 15th 2020



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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

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, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world. Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us, and bring us to eternal light and joy; through the power of him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

JUDGES 4:1-7;

PSALM 123;

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11;

MATTHEW 25:14-30

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2020-11-15&submit=show+new+date>

Let me say right up front, do I think God will ever kick us off the curb? Absolutely not! You might object, 'but in the gospel it says' I know, but the Gospel is from Matthew and Matthew is the most demanding and the least forgiving of the 4 gospels. I certainly believe God gives us amazing gifts, and in no short supply – nobody can out-give God, and nobody is more patient with us in how we use or don't use God's gifts.

How do I know that or believe that? Because my life has been filled with more gifts than you could imagine. Have I always used those gifts wisely (or just used them at all?) Sadly no – some yes, for sure, but lots no. Has God ever kicked me to the curb? Never – though that may well be because I got myself there before God could get me there.

Having said all that, are there no consequences for taking God or God's gifts for granted? Sure, there are. But I think the 'consequences' flow naturally from our choices. Let me use our COVID-19 experience as an example.

We all know about COVID-19. You'd have to be living under a rock – a very big rock – not to know some of the basics. Let me just pick one aspect or consequence of COVID-19 – isolating. I don't have a problem, generally, being alone (I'm an introvert by nature so that makes being alone easier or more natural for me). But I am not a hermit (tried it for a while – and it sucks!) One of the things I've learned about God is that God is always present – always! Patiently present. Quietly present. Non-judgmentally present. All I have to do is open my heart. Now, what I also know is, that isn't always as easy as it sounds – especially in the fast-paced culture we live in. If I don't practice looking for God, if I don't practice listening for God, I will simply lose that ability to either see or hear the God who is always here patiently waiting for me to show up.

So, when I 'come to my self' (a phrase used for the prodigal son) and I wonder where God was when I was in need, I know God will simply remind me, "I was here waiting for you."

I can't afford to lose that most priceless gift. But the old adage is true 'use it or lose it.' So not using the gift of God's presence is no different than burying that gift in the ground. It doesn't do anything, it doesn't change anything, and, over time, it simply dies – not from God's side but from mine/ours.

So, let's be good and wise stewards of the gift God offers us - the gift of God's personal presence. And I promise you this: the more you look for the presence of God in your life the more you will see it, the more you see it the more it will change everything else you see and everything else you do.



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Prayers of the People for November 15, 2020 by Anne Gagan annemartha41@gmail.com

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Holy God, we pray that you, with our help, will bring to fruition all that you desire for creation. You have created the universe by your eternal Word, and have blessed humankind in making us stewards of the earth. We pray for your world, that we may share and conserve its resources, and live in reverence for the creation and in harmony with one another. Father, Lord of creation, in your mercy, hear us.

You have given the human race a rich land, a land of streams and springs, wheat and barley, vines and oil and honey. We have made by sin a world of suffering and sorrow. We pray for those who bear the weight of affliction, that they may come to share the life of wholeness and plenty. Father, Lord of creation, in your mercy, hear us.

In Christ you call us to a new way of life, loving our neighbours before ourselves. Help us to treat with care and respect the world as it is as we live in hope and anticipation of the world as it will be when your kingdom comes and your will is done. Thank you for those, living and departed, who have shown a true respect for your creation ... Help us to follow in their footsteps, until, with them, we see you face to face, where all is made new in Christ our Lord.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

— adapted from *New Patterns for Worship* © The Archbishops' Council 2002. From the Church of England's Common Worship website

We pray for:- Rick our interim Rector who continues to play a vital role in our worship, Enrique Jomadi, Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, 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 Silcox** and the people of **Grace Church, Brantford**.

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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Indoor Services continue 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 Morning Prayer services:

Today November 15th Pt Ryerse at 9:30 and Woodhouse 11am

St John's Port Rowan, Sunday November 22 at 9:30 am

There will be a Parish Budget meeting on Saturday December 5 at 9:30am.

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=F2CHBj-m_Lg&feature=youtu.be

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

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page