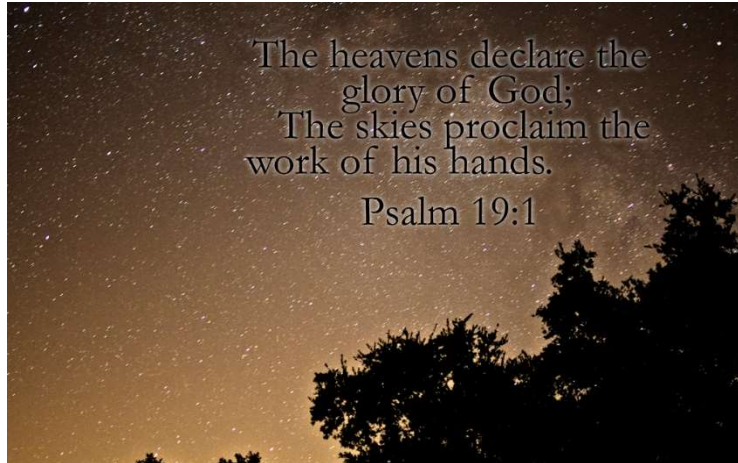


Pentecost 3
June 21st, 2020



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

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Psalm 19:1

Collect

Creator God, from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name. You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. Amen

READINGS

IS 40:25-31

Psalm 19

Phil 4:4-9

Jn 1:1-18

Pentecost 3 Reflection

When I 1st sat down to begin to focus on my written reflection for this Sunday, the gospel blew me out of the water. It's not the 1st time I've looked at this gospel by a long shot. But it is the 1st time after some significant events and faith developments have happened in my life over the past year and a half – very 'feet-on-the-ground' experiences. This 'Prologue' to the Gospel of John is the most profound articulation of Jesus, the Christ (anointed) of God, that I know of.

I know we've all heard this gospel many times so there's probably not a lot surprising when we hear it this time. But my experiences over the past year and a half reminds me of a book title I vaguely remember: Meeting Jesus On The Road Again For The 1st Time.

I know I've shared with you my 'Aha' moment in an undergraduate course in Christology when I realized I really didn't know anything about the historical Jesus. At that point in my life, with 5 years in a religious order and 3 years of theology, of course I was not unfamiliar with Jesus. But I really didn't know much about the historical person named 'Jesus'. Yes, I knew all the faith titles of Jesus (Lord, Son of God, Word Made Flesh, Second person of the Trinity, etc.). But I didn't really know that 1st century Jewish layman.

John is writing his gospel about 100 – 110 CE. That's about 70-80 years after Jesus's death – 70-80 years of 'theologizing' that experience of the historical Jesus. Of course, that theologizing is extremely valuable/important. But I want us never to forget that very human 1st century Jewish layman lest we wind up in a popular understanding of Jesus as simply another form of a Roman god, descended from 'Olympus'/heaven into a human form and able to do all those 'divine' things.

Jesus was truly human in every sense of the word. And it is in that 1st century Jewish layman that we say we can discover what a life filled with the presence of God looks like. It is in the face of that 1st century Jewish layman that we can discover what the face of God can look like. It is in the voice and the words of that 1st century Jewish layman that we can hear what the voice of God sounds like. And in the that 1st century Jewish layman we discover what God is passionate about.

Only then, having really met God in that 1st century Jewish layman, can we begin to take seriously what he asks of us when he says over and over; 'See what I just did? Now it's your turn. You do it!' (or in the more familiar form: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you!")

Only to the extent that we have really met Jesus on our road, only to the extent that we have heard his voice on our road, only then does the profound articulation of the prologue of John's gospel begin to explode into our lives.

Just as a (not so little) aside, one of the great gifts for each and all of us is that we don't travel that road of discovery alone. We travel it together (it's called 'the church'). In these days of Coved distancing and isolation, I miss that togetherness more than I can tell you and pray for that time when we will be together again. In the meantime (the inbetween time), travel well and as safely as possible.

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

O God, Heavenly Father, on this Father's Day, we pray that you bless all of your children who are fathers and father figures. Give them the grace, wisdom, fortitude and humility to be stewards of Christ in their families, especially during these challenging times when the stresses about health, job security and race relations all seem to be coming to a head. Continue to guide them that they may in turn help to guide their charges in the ways of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to love one another.

Bless the memories of the fathers and father figures who are no longer with us, who tried to follow your example through their faith, and be a steadying, loving presence in the lives of those in their care. May they continue to rest in peace.

Heavenly Father, we pray that we may ever love and revere your Holy Name. Through the sacrifice of your loving Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, you freed us your children from sin. Let the Holy Spirit fill our hearts so that we will use that freedom to work towards justice, peace and racial harmony.

We thank you for the work of the essential services employees, especially those in the healthcare field who are caring for our loved ones even as their own families may be in need. We thank you for the farmers and their local and migrant workers who have kept us well and properly fed throughout this pandemic, and continue to do so. We thank you for our priests, lay ministers and church leaders who are providing the pastoral care that is vitally needed during all of this. We pray that you continue to protect us all as we move into the next stage of a return to normalcy.

Hear our prayers, Heavenly Father, that we may serve you in body, mind and spirit. Open our hearts to be compassionate so that we will work together on behalf of all creation.

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

Amen.

Almighty God, we offer our prayers for 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 **Rev. Rosalyn Elm** and the people of the **Parish of the Six Nations** all lay and clergy and those known to you.

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, Julie, David, John, Anna and Ron.

Pray also for the family and friends of Nora Brown, a former parishioner of Memorial, who passed away on Sunday June 14th

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.

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:

Please click on Rick's video link below to learn more about the Indigenous Day of Prayer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaxH9lsGM2g&feature=youtu.be>



Churches to be closed for the Summer. On June 1st the Provincial House of Bishop's announced that regardless of Government Opening Guidelines, in consultation with Health and Safety Experts, Anglican Churches will remain closed until at least September. Here at Long Point Bay Parish, we will continue to provide worship resources to everyone on our parish lists, either by email, website, Facebook or by this mailing that you are receiving from us now.

Welcome St. Andrew's Congregation back (virtually) and Enrique Martinez the Student Minister for this Summer.

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

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page