

Reign of Christ
November 22nd 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

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Mark 11.9, 10

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King, grant that the peoples of the earth, now divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his gentle and loving rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24;

PSALM 100;

EPHESIANS 1:15-23;

MATTHEW 25:31-46

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2020-11-22>

Reflection Nov 22, 2020

Today marks the end of the Christian Year. We started out by waiting for Jesus in Advent and at Christmas celebrated his birth, we have followed his life story. Then at Easter we remembered his death and rebirth, now the story ends with the futuristic vision of Jesus Reigning with God. We all like a story with a happy ending and the early Christian Church provided the ending that seemed to make the most sense to them. What I find interesting is that Jesus really didn't talk about the end times and when asked about it just deflected the questions, *only God knows* was his usual response.

You may be thinking, "Didn't we just hear from Jesus about the end times today in this reading from Matthew?" Actually, no, what we read today are completely the words of the writer of Matthew and reflect his ideas of the happy ending he and his community anticipated. When you listen to Jack's video today, he will reflect that the historical Jesus, in his life and actions, never cut off or ultimately condemned anyone. His whole message was love and healing, justice and peace. So why did Matthew need to end the story of Jesus with vengeance and judgement? Partly he was reflecting pre-Jesus ideas of how God works in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), ignoring the new idea of the God of Love presented by Jesus. He also succumbed to the very human idea that everyone needs to ultimately, *get what they deserve*. This is a sad commentary on how difficult it is to embrace the great commandment of love our neighbours and especially of our enemies. We know that his community was being persecuted and members were being martyred for their faith. Matthew, more than any other Gospel writer, puts words of condemnation and judgement into Jesus' mouth. As we would say today, he has issues. This is why we need to read the Bible intelligently and notice that the bigger picture. That Picture we get of Jesus life and teachings is never about judgement, but about forgiveness and love.

I wish I could tell you why the Church over the centuries hasn't done more to debunk the ideas of hell and eternal judgement. I suspect it is because they thought that fear would motivate people to follow the teachings of the Church. I am reminded of the story of the man who started to come to church after he retired from a career of exploiting people and causing much damage to those around him. When asked about it he replied, "I'm just getting my fire insurance now!" I know this is a silly story but how many people still really believe that the God of love has an eternal place of torture and judgement in store for people. Human beings never live to their full potential as Children of God, if they are living in fear of a murderous Eternal Parent/Judge.

Our Creed has it right in that **Jesus** will judge the living and the dead, and if we know anything about Jesus, that judgement will be to help us come to healing and peace, reconciliation and love. Jesus now and for eternity will help us find a closer walk with God. Today we celebrate that, through Jesus' Resurrection, all the dark powers of evil and death have been vanquished and Jesus Reigns now with God. We, however, still have free will, we still write the story of our future and the future of our planet. But Jesus' and God's dream for us will always be love, peace, joy and eternal life. We realize that dream when we walk in Jesus' footsteps and do what he did to love others, heal the sick, feed the poor and bring peace to our world. May we live this dream with God's help.

May we always walk gently upon the Earth, in right relationship, nurtured by your love, open to the wind of the Spirit, taking only what we need, always open to the needs of others, making choices that bring wellbeing, living with generosity, striving for justice, honouring all with reverence, reconciling and peacemaking, mindful of those who will come after, recognizing our proper place as part of your creation.

May we open our eyes that they may see the deepest needs of people;

Move our hands that they may feed the hungry;

Touch our hearts that it may bring warmth to the despairing;

Teach us the generosity that welcomes strangers;

Let us share our possessions to clothe the naked;

Give us the care that strengthens the sick;

Make us share in the quest to set the prisoner free.

In sharing our anxieties and our love, our poverty and our prosperity, we partake of your divine presence.

Grant us the strength and courage, Lord, for such a radical transformation into your Kingdom.

As we are living in these times, guide us through this dangerous time of increased numbers of COVID-19 victims and deaths. Help us to follow the advice of experts in health science to prevent the spread to others and to those we love. Guide us Lord that we might have hope for the future while we dwell in you. You alone are our greatest blessing, and in you we find our ultimate peace. In your blessed name we pray. Amen

We pray for: - Rick Jones who has been our interim Rector guiding us in worship during this difficult time, 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 **Fr. Mario Hryniewicz** (interim) and the people of **Holy Trinity. St. George**.

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.



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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.

Services:

There will be Eucharistic services led by Rev Jack Cox

Sunday November 22nd St John's Port Rowan

Sunday November 29th St. John's Woodhouse

Memorial will not be holding any in-person services until further notice

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

On Saturday November 28th at 5pm – est. 6:30pm there will be a Take-Away Roast Pork Dinner at St. John's Woodhouse, Simcoe. Dinners must be pre-ordered at 519-426-4461.

Roast Pork, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, apple sauce, coleslaw, bun and apple dessert.

Take away only.

\$15 cash to be paid at pick up



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**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=oC4Mu2N8RIQ>



The
Diocese of Huron

Dear friends,

Today, on the Transgender Day of Remembrance, we are called to both grieve and celebrate. The reasons for grief are obvious. So many people have been abused, have suffered and have died because of their gender identity.

We can also celebrate because we believe in the strong truth that Christians, those who have come through the waters of baptism, find their primary identity “in Christ”. We have died with Christ, we are raised with Christ, we cannot be separated from the love of Christ. As it says in Galatians 3:28, “there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” These things—being a slave or free, being male or female, being this or that—these are all fluid; but being “in Christ” is solid. We have not claimed the fullness of the dignity that is given with that. In the eyes of God, each person has an awesome dignity. It is a gift to be claimed.

Every day we have the opportunity to see those around us as beloved-of-God. God loves each person more than we can imagine. God created this diverse, beautiful, rainbow people—and rainbow creation—for us to enjoy.

Yet we know that some have battled against this diversity and have done extreme violence to those who seem different. There is a terrible movement of sin in the world that makes some people want to make others in their own image—rather than seeing others in the image of God. These death-dealing ways must stop. Based in fear, these ways of seeing others distorts the deepest truth about our humanity in Christ.

Today, we remember with love those who have suffered due to transphobic violence. We re-commit ourselves to protection for the vulnerable. We support each person as they claim who they are, the one made in God’s image, the one God loves so much. May we each love others as God loves us.

Yours in Christ,
+Todd
Bishop of Huron



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