

2nd Sunday After Easter
April 19th, 2020



Opening

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

Sentence

Have you believed, Thomas, because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

Collect

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

READINGS

Acts 2:14a,22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Reflection Easter 2

Today we begin to explore the Resurrection experiences of the first disciples. You will notice that each gospel writer gives us different stories, as does Paul in his Road to Damascus experience. I once wasted a lot of time and energy trying to rationalize these very different accounts, “Why were they so different and sometimes contradictory?” You will notice that today we have John telling us that they received the Holy Spirit from Jesus the first time they saw him. Later in Acts, written by the author of Luke’s gospel, the Holy Spirit comes after the Ascension in what we call Pentecost. It wasn’t until I stopped looking for “history” (records of observable events) and started to see these stories as “parables about Jesus” (a parable is a story to make a point or share a truth), that I really appreciated their eternal benefit. We can argue about “facts” or we can agree on what the Risen Christ did for the early disciples and can do for us today.

You will receive links in the **Announcements** section to our video homily for this week. You will be hearing from both Jack Cox and me. I will be focusing on the first appearance without Thomas, and Jack will look at the second with Thomas.

Regardless of the historicity of these stories, they speak to both of us of a God of unconditional love who will never abandon us in our time of need. A God seen in Jesus, who suffered, forgave and brings resurrection hope to each one of us, if we open our hearts to receive it. May you find that Jesus brings you Peace at this time and may you be strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit for the days to come.

Archdeacon Rick Jones

rickplus@gmail.com

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please pray for Our Bishop Dr. Todd Townshend, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda, our Primate, Mark, National Indigenous Archbishop and Marinez, Bishop of Amazonia **Rev. Paul Silcox**, the **Rev. David Hyatt** and the people of **Grace Church, Brantford**, and all lay and clergy leaders.

We ask your prayers 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 you.

Remember our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes: June, Shirley, Iris, Everett, Julie, David, John, Anna, and Ron

A Prayer for Use During a Time of Pandemic

We pray today for all those suffering from COVID-19, and especially today for those struggling to find support:

Father of all, you call us to be generous to one another, and to recognise in their faces the true image of your Son. Give us grace that as individuals, and as a whole society, that in this time of great need we may minister friendship and support in ways that are safe to all those who are in need of the service of others this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us, the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us and give us peace. Amen.

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 the link below to watch AD Rick's video for this week

<https://youtu.be/p3yfzciNUEc>

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