

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 5th 2021**



**Opening**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**Sentence**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. All flesh shall see the salvation of God  
*Luke 3.4,*

**Collect**

Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings**

BARUCH 5:1-9 OR MALACHI 3:1-4;

CANTICLE 19 (LUKE 1:68-79);

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11;

LUKE 3:1-6A

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2021-12-05&submit=show+new+date>

Advent means that something good is coming. At advent, we make ourselves ready for it. And then we wait. A long time ago a nation waited for a saviour. Judea was carried away into exile in Babylon and longed to be home. But home was miles away, and there were mountains, and mountain roads in between\_ there was the promise of a return home. In advent we remember that promise. Ready yourselves, the prophets said, someone is coming who will make those twisty mountain paths straight, who will level the brutal climbs and the steep descents that keep you from home. Be ready. The one who is coming is righteous, and only a righteous people will make it home. The good news is, he will make you righteous.

They waited a very long time, though.

That captivity lasted for seventy years. After that, they traversed the mountains, but brought captivity with them. Other kings ruled them, other powers with other Gods. It was more of the same until one evening in Bethlehem, a baby was born in an innkeeper's home, down below, tucked among the hay and the warm bodies of the animals. The angels told them who this baby was. It was Emmanuel, god with them, God in flesh. He was a baby, he was righteous, and he would forgive all of their sins and make them ready.

This is the first advent. It was the promise of righteousness, not in the straining of a nation trying to find God, but in the way that God makes his people righteous, with a gift, in this case the gift of a child. And it was hope, the promise that something, someone will come and make things right again.

The hope and promise of that first advent became reality at Christmas, and that first advent gives us the pattern for the second.

We still look forward to the hope of a coming, a making right, and a healing. We are still called to be ready. But thanks be to God, we have a pattern to follow. This time we aren't going through it blindly. We know that waiting and preparation come to reality with the singing of angels and the birth of a new life. We look forward to Christ's coming again with the full assurance that Christ has already come, that the waiting will be worth it. There is still a very good gift to come, eternal life is somewhere just over the horizon. We have hope. We have life to look forward to and the gift of a life to look back on in promise. And we are still called to be ready.

That's what the prophets called for.

Be righteous. That's what the prophets demand.

Be clean, that's who will find eternal life in God's kingdom.

On their own, you might come to think that preparedness, righteousness, and cleanliness are an impediment to hope.

You can hold on to hope if. Hope is for the righteous. Hope is for the ready. Hope is for the clean clean.

But like so much in the kingdom of God, advent is something that God does. And so are readiness, cleanliness, and righteousness.

We are ready because of the Spirit alive in us. We are clean because of the cleansing of baptism, and we are righteous because God has made us righteous in his dying and rising to life again. In our Gospel reading, John the Baptist tells of the hope of a coming saviour, and proclaims repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Christ is coming, he said. And we were filled with hope. Be forgiven, he said, and by God's grace we are made ready.

At Christmas, in a few weeks. We will celebrate the great joy of a fulfilled hope.

But advent, our time of preparation, is no less filled with grace. Advent's preparation is not the desperate act of the helpless, but the gift of God to all who ask.

Advent may not be the celebration of Christmas, but it is a celebration. This time, too, witnesses to the goodness of God and the great gift of salvation. By the grace of God, when God comes again, we will have been filled by the Holy Spirit, made clean by the son, and welcomed home by God the father. We will, by God's work in us, be ready. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People from Jack Addison [jwaddison54@gmail.com](mailto:jwaddison54@gmail.com)

For the Church, the world, for one another, and for the sake of all people, let us pray to the Lord. Thank you, dear Father, for promising that not one of your lambs, tended by your Son the Good Shepherd, shall be lost. Thank you that Jesus levels mountains, fills in valleys, and takes every road, until he finds and saves them. Unite us with him, so we, too may seek the lost and lead them to his embrace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your Church the herald of good tidings, fearless in proclaiming your Word. Through it, grant your comfort to those who are lost and afflicted by sin, sorrow, and suffering. In everything it says and does, may your Church constantly and faithfully announce: "Behold: Here is your God!"

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be merciful to our persecuted brothers and sisters who proclaim the name of Jesus even amidst their enemies. Make their witness shine as a light in the world's darkest places. Pierce the hearts of their tormentors with the truth of the Gospel.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless and prosper the work of this congregation: its pastors and council members, its committee members and other volunteers, and all who worship with us. Keep us steadfast in faith, fervent in worship, radiant in holiness, patient in adversity, and beautiful in our love for you and for your people.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant wisdom to our earthly leaders. Use them to raise the poor from depths of despair. Level mountains of injustice and suffering throughout the world. We earnestly pray that nation will no longer raise sword against nation. Guide us all in the pathways of your righteousness and peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

John spoke wise words to soldiers who came to him for baptism. Grant integrity, courage, and competence to our military and first responders. Use them to restore safety and justice in dangerous places. Spare them from death. Heal them in mind and body. Strengthen their families. Bring them home swiftly when their task is done.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remove the burden of pain and sorrow from the backs of all who suffer. Bring them into a broad and spacious place. Let them rejoice in your goodness and give thanks for their deliverance.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, we entrust into your never-failing care our beloved dead. Comfort those whose grief runs deep. Revive our spirits, direct our days and our deeds in your peace, and make us abound in every good work. Strengthen our hearts with the gift of your Spirit, so that we may be blameless at the coming of Jesus. And gather us, with all the redeemed, into your eternal Kingdom, where we shall rejoice in your goodness and righteousness forever.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For all these things; for all we lift before you in the silence of our hearts; and for everything that you know we need, we pray in the name and power of our Lord Jesus Christ, and commend into your mighty and merciful hands.

**Amen.**

We now pray for Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, Marinez Bishop of Amazonia. AD Rick Jones, Rev. Enrique Martinez, Rev. Jack Cox

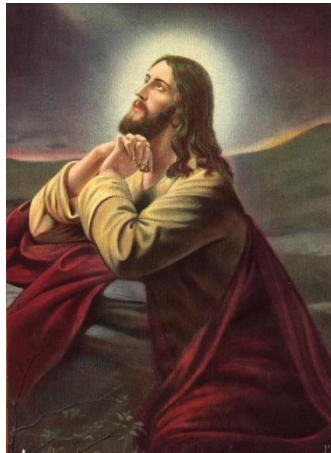
For the week beginning Sunday 5 December 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Canon Tony Bouwmeester** (interim) and the people of **St. Paul's**, Port Dover

Remembering our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes.  
June, Shirley, Iris, Julie, John, Sheila, Sylvia, Anna and Jack B.

We pray 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., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Delores B., Dale & David F, Rose G, Julie, Barbara S., Carol M., George F., Carol H., and anyone known to you, silently or aloud

**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](mailto:lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com) or Enrique at [enrique6921@gmail.com](mailto:enrique6921@gmail.com)**

**If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them let us know and we will add to the list**



### **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.

**Please click on the link to watch this week's Parish Video**

<https://youtu.be/7SyUJ55fFVQ>

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Eucharist services  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup>  
St. John's Port Rowan

Sunday December 12th  
Memorial and Woodhouse  
9:30 and 11am



If you have anything you would like to contribute or comment on. Any good movies you've seen or books you have read. Do you have memories you want to share? Please send them to Rev. Enrique and he can include in the newspaper.

Any birthdays/anniversaries/special occasions in December – Let me know for the newspaper. We can celebrate you and add some facts that happened on that day in history. I don't need your year of birth, just the month and date. Of course, if you have a special age birthday and want to celebrate it just let me know. If you are interested in this special occasion section, please send me details.



### **Our Parish of Long Point Bay Projects**

“for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. “Matthew 25:35-36

#### **Seasonal Farmer Workers and Greenhouse Project Start**





Population growth and less availability of food material have become global concerns. The world population increases exponentially whereas food production has increased only arithmetically, meaning that the availability of food per capita has decreased. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom by respond to human need by loving service. God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love, and compassion the marks of His kingdom. As followers of Jesus, we have a choice: respond to unsettling realities in fear and withdraw, or follow Him in responding to the greatest needs of our day with love and hope.

It is anticipated that funding for these projects will be provided through government grants, support from the diocese of Huron and individual donations. **Donations may be made to the Parish of Long Point Bay.**

I really hope that you will support these outreach projects that put our faith into action.

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So, faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” James 2:14



## **Sing Along to this week's Hymns**

Hymn Texts – Sunday, December 5th, 2021 – On-line Service

### **HYMN 1 – Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus (CP 88)**

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.
2. Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a King;  
born to reign in us forever:  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
3. By thine own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

### **HYMN 2 – Hail to the Lord's Anointed (CP 101)**

1. Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!  
hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing.  
to him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
3. O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.  
His name shall stand forever: that name to us is Love.

**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@gmail.com](mailto:enrique6921@gmail.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](mailto:lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com) or by phone @ 519-586-7034**

**Please visit our website [parishoflongpointbay.com](http://parishoflongpointbay.com) and Facebook page**