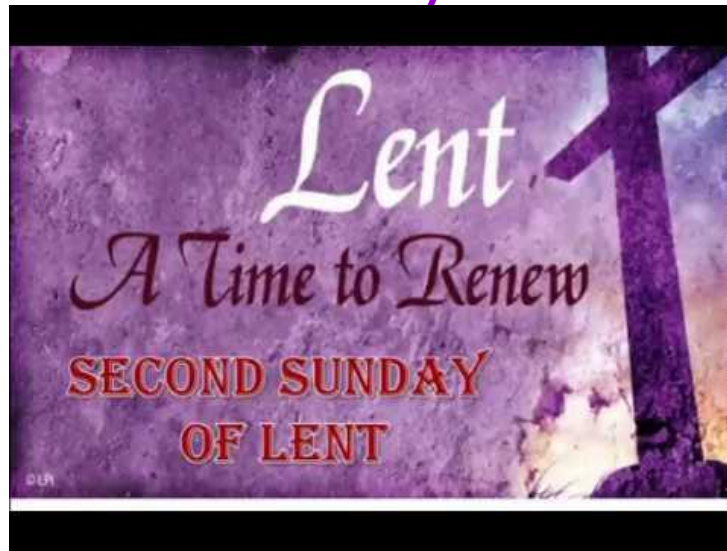


# THE PARISH OF LONG POINT BAY



PORT ROWAN ♦ PORT RYERSE ♦ TURKEY POINT ♦ VITTORIA ♦ ST. JOHN'S WOODHOUSE

## Sunday March 13th 2022 Second Sunday of Lent



### **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**

If you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.  
*Psalm 95.7-8*

### **Collect**

Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross, give us faith to perceive his glory, that being strengthened by his grace we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Readings**

GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18;

PSALM 27;

PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1;

LUKE 13:31-35 OR LUKE 9:28-36

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2022-03-13&submit=show+new+date>

## Reflection for Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 from Rev Jack Cox

In our 1<sup>st</sup> reading this Sunday, Abram complains to God that God has not given Abram an heir and asks God if he should adopt one of the slaves of his house to be his heir. (That was the normal solution in such circumstances.) But God assures Abram that he will have a son of his own (from his own loins). That son will be his heir and Abram will have countless descendants (as many as the stars in the sky). God is literally promising old Abram endless descendants. God is basically promising Abram ‘immortality’ since Abram will live on and on in his endless descendants.

So, Abram then asks God how God can ensure him that this promise will really last – that God’s not just blowing smoke. What follows is what was called a Suzerainty covenant.

The Suzerain was the king and, in a ceremony, where the king made a covenant/bond with a subordinate, one or more animals were slaughtered, cut in half, and the pieces were laid opposite each other forming an aisle. The individual then making the promise pronounced the words of the covenant as he walked the aisle between the butchered parts of the animals – saying in effect: “May it be with me as the pieces of this carcass if I break this covenant!”

In this case, God walks the aisle and swears by God’s own self that the promise he has made to Abram will not be broken. Abram’s name is then changed to Av Raham (Father of Many).

The really incredible thing here is that God offers God’s own self as assurance of the faithfulness of the promise. God, not Abram, walks that aisle between the body parts.

On Mar 4 of this year, I turned 80 (my god! that’s ancient!) Have God and I made serious covenants over those 80 years? Absolutely! - Lots! Did God ever break his part? Never! Did I ever break my part? I think that would depend on who you asked. For my part, I would say “No!” But along the way we’ve renegotiated the terms of the covenant.

My experience is that covenants, promises, are living things and living things change. Sometimes those living promises change and we need to change to continue to be true to the promises we made. Marriage is probably as good an example as I can think of. We make promises on our wedding day and as life throws its curves at us things/we change and we adapt. When we marry, we make promises to our spouse. Over the years we change, our spouse changes so we adapt. Nothing stays the same.

Contrary to what some people think, change is not a bad thing. But I do think we need to look carefully at our lives, where we’ve come from and where we’re going and to decide what changes, if any, we need to make to get from here to there! Just so we can keep those promises we made to ourselves and to others.

What is most interesting to me in this covenant between God and Abram is that God offers God’s own self as the assurance of promise!

In my life’s travels, negotiations, ‘bargaining’ with God, God has always been there with me. God has always been the guide to get me where I needed to go, even when I didn’t see it or understand it and even when I wasn’t getting it ‘right’. Did I always see it or understand it at the time? No!

But 8 decades down the road, the path is clearer, and the one who stuck with me through it all is closer to me now than my own breath! And I have a greater understanding of and appreciation for Abram, a fellow traveler.

## Prayers for Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> from Dorothy Koorn

(In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, hear and have mercy.")

We pray for all who confess the name of Christ: fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit.

**Lord, hear and have mercy.**

We pray for those whose lives are bound in mutual love, and for those who live in celibacy: be their joy and their strength. Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all in danger, for those who are far from home, prisoners, exiles, victims of oppression: grant them your salvation.

**Lord, hear and have mercy.**

For all who are facing trials and difficulties, for those who are sick, and those who are dying: show them your kindness and mercy.

**Lord, hear and have mercy.**

We pray for one another: may we always be united in service and love.

**Lord, hear and have mercy.**

We pray to be forgiven our sins and set free from all hardship, distress, want, war, and injustice.

**Lord, hear and have mercy.**

May we discover new and just ways of sharing the goods of the earth, struggling against exploitation, greed, or lack of concern: may we all live by the abundance of your mercies and find joy together.

**Lord, hear and have mercy.**

May we be strengthened by our communion with all Christ's saints.

**Lord, hear and have mercy**

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

For the week beginning Sunday 13 March 2022, we will be praying for the **Rev. Rosalyn Elm** and the people of the **Parish of the Six Nations**.

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 F, Rose G, Julie, Carol M., George F., Carol H., Bud W. Juanita K. Mary B. Sabrina S Colin C. his father Michael, Pat A. and all their families and anyone known to you, silently or aloud

Remember as well our shut-ins June, Shirley & John, Iris, Julie, Sheila, Sylvia, Anna and Jack B

**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/mbjgr9LynfU>

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In house worship today St John's Port Rowan at 10 am

All in person services to be determined – I will send schedule as soon as decided

### **Bi-Weekly newspaper**

Any good movies you've seen or books you have read. A delicious recipe you want to us all to enjoy. Do you have memories you want to share? Please send them to Rev. Enrique or myself and we can include in the newspaper.

Any birthdays/anniversaries/special occasions in March – Let me know for the newspaper. We can celebrate 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.



## Sing along to this mornings Hymns

### Hymn Texts – Sunday, March 13, 2022

#### **468 – To Abraham and Sarah**

1. To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear:  
“Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.  
You need not fear the journey, for I have pledged my word  
That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”
2. From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,  
Dependent for their journey on God’s abundant grace;  
And in their heart was written by God this saving word,  
“That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”
3. We of this generation on whom God’s hand is laid  
Can journey to the future secure and unafraid,  
Rejoicing in God’s goodness and trusting in this word,  
“That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”

#### **537 – In the Cross of Christ I Glory**

1. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o’er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o’er take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy.  
Never shall the cross forsake me: lo, it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming adds more lustre to the day.
4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.
5. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o’er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

**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**