

Pentecost 15
September 13th 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 word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.
Deuteronomy 30.14

Collect

Almighty God,
you call your Church to witness
that in Christ we are reconciled to you.
Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may turn to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings

EXODUS 15:1B-11, 20-21;

PSALM 114

ROMANS 14:1-12;

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Click on the link below to open the readings for this week

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2020-09-13&submit=show+new+date>

Reflection - The life and example of Wangari Maathai

Wangari Muta Maathai was a Kenyan environmental and political activist. In the 1970s, Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, an environmental non-governmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights. In 2004, she became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace". Maathai was an elected member of Parliament and served as assistant minister for Environment and Natural Resources in the government of President Mwai Kibaki between January 2003 and November 2005. She passed away in 2011. "It is the little things citizens do that will make a difference. My little thing is planting a tree" Wangari Maathai The Green Belt movement has planted over 51 million trees in Kenya. This Season of Creation manual is dedicated to her memory. May her inspiration live on in us.

This is the prologue to the Anglican Church of Canada resource on the Season of Creation. I wanted you to read it for two reasons. First, because many of us have never heard of this remarkable woman who is a great example to us all, and second, because her philosophy, "It is the little things citizens do that will make a difference" is exactly the attitude that provides us with hope not overwhelming despair.

Last week I suggested that Christian Stewardship is about realizing that we humans are very much part of Creation, not separate. It is an unhelpful trick of the mind to think of ourselves as separate from the world we live in, yet many people go through life somewhat oblivious to the air, water, food and ecosystem that keeps us all alive. Last week Paul suggested we "Wake up" to the coming of the Reign of God. The Reign of God is about God's will for humanity and all the rest of God's creation. As good Stewards we can be Awake and begin to pay attention to the world around us. I know that when I begin to pay attention I notice my own thoughtless actions that contribute to the problems around us. Once we notice, we can begin to change our behaviours. Awareness is the first step. Awareness can lead to ideas about how we could do things differently. This is where Wangari Maathai's example comes in. Instead of just worrying about everything and then feeling despondent and paralyzed, we can pick some small thing and begin to make a small difference in one area of our behaviour. I really hesitate to give examples because the minute I give you an example you might take it as a suggestion. We have lots of people out there giving us suggestions and ideas about helping the environment. **The problem isn't the lack of ideas of how to change the world, it is the lack of motivation to change the world.** Motivation is, for me, a spiritual issue. Will we "Wake Up" to God's will for our lives and the world around us. Will we actively participate in that Dream God has for us. It all starts with awareness: We are really part of God's creation and God's plan for this world. May you have a safe and mindful week and be a cocreator with God of a better world for us, our children, and grandchildren!

Archdeacon Rick Jones, rickplus@gmail.com



Prayers of the People

Eternal God, we have learned so little since the ancient wisdom of Israel began to be articulated. You provide for us a way and we turn a deaf ear.

We confess especially on this anniversary of 9/11 that we have not learned the futility of war and violence. We still think we can resolve differences by brute force. We project the worst of motives to our enemies and the best to ours. We continue to demonize our enemies in order to justify killing them. We speak of others as evil but forget or deny the evil which resides in each of us.

Deliver us from this body of death, O God. Save us from refusing to learn. Help us to revise our lives and our culture so that we may gain a heart of wisdom and know you who are the beginning of wisdom. Teach us the difficult spiritual act of learning how to forgive others and to forgive our enemies. Take away from us the calculating spirit of Peter which resides in each one of us and which would measure out forgiveness with a careful and reluctant eye. Transform us, O God.

Save us from growing weary in the steady and tedious task of keeping relationships cleaned up. Save us from trying to set some artificial limits on how far we will go with those who offend us. Save us from a calculating faith which tries to put another person outside the Christian circle. Save us from being stingy of spirit and denying grace to others.

O God, give us generous and forgiving spirits which make room for the sins and weaknesses of others. Amen

Thanks Jack Addison
jwaddison54@gmail.com

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 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, As well as all those who are beginning the process of re-opening in the AMBER Stage.**

As well as for the ones who have asked for Your 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., Diane H., Delores B., Dale Fitkowski, 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



If there are any changes to the prayer list or shut in list, please either let AD Rick or Anne Halls know at the contact information below.

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.

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 to resume in a limited fashion.

The Diocese of Huron has instituted a “reopening” program called “Loving Our Neighbour”, this can be accessed on the Diocesan website. We are currently in the AMBER stage of this programme. 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.

Your congregation will be sending out an email prior to their first indoor service with a description of what to expect. Pt Rowan is starting this week and Woodhouse will follow on September 20th. Note that not every church will be holding a service every week as in the past. It will be as it was before, with Holy Communion every second week but the Morning Prayer services in between have been cancelled. This allows us to safely monitor the health of our congregations over two week periods. Not all parishes or congregations are required to offer indoor services but it has become an option that we are exploring carefully. Your safety is our paramount concern, we know this pandemic is not over.

Services:

Summer services are concluded at St. Andrew's, Turkey Point

St. John's, Pt Rowan Indoor Eucharist Service **today** Sept 13th at 9:30 a.m.

St. John's, Woodhouse Indoor Morning Prayer Service September 20 at 11 a.m.

St. John's, Pt Rowan Indoor Eucharist Service September 27th at 9:30 a.m.

VIDEO OFFERINGS THIS WEEK:

**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=mKALh5xHOns>

Click on link below to see the latest videos from Bishop Todd:

<https://youtu.be/EZrde6SyKgo>

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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.

**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