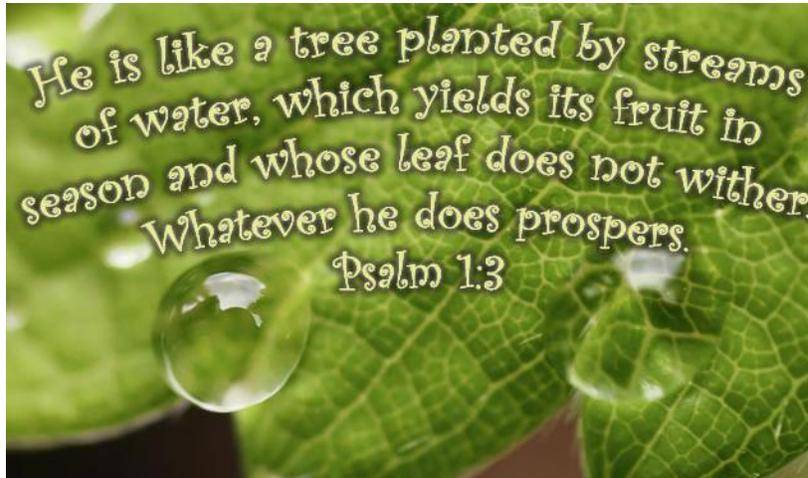


Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 16th 2021



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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

I will not leave you desolate, says the Lord; I will come to you. John 14.18

Collect

Almighty God, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Mercifully give us faith to know that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Reading

ACTS 1:15-17, 21-26;

PSALM 1

1 JOHN 5:9-13;

JOHN 17:6-19

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2021-05-16&submit=show+new+date>

Reflection for 7th Sunday of Easter from father John Maroney



Good morning sisters and brothers;

After we returned from our customary evening walk last night, Nina informed me that she had read that the northern lights might be visible in our area. I was very excited at the prospect. Since arriving to Canada 38 years ago I have seen the northern lights several times at the farm. It is an experience which is difficult to describe in narrative form. It must be experienced because it is so surreal that it leaves one speechless. It is a thin place where the presence of God is keenly felt in mind, body and soul. And the night sky becomes sacred space in which the Holy Spirit dances with wild abandon, throwing colours about randomly like a Jackson Pollock painting. I remember one time being so overwhelmed by the experience that I had to sit down on the damp grass to catch my breath.

I walked out to the front lawn at about 10:30 pm last night, and stood looking up. It was a very dark night, and a thin crescent moon hung lazily in the sky. At first, I could not see many stars, but as my eyes adjusted to the darkness, they began appearing. All the constellations came into view as well as far away planets and star clusters so far away that it is beyond comprehension. And I was standing directly beneath the Milky Way, and I could almost feel the weight of the billions of stars it contains. And I could not help but think what the ancients thought about the mystery night sky. The Maya had it figured out. They predicted when Halley's comet would return to earth centuries before Halley was born. Their sense of the divine was inexorably connected to the cosmos, as was the case of the indigenous peoples of this country. The longer I stayed out the more stars came into focus. And although the northern lights did not appear, I was nonetheless spellbound. The night was calm, and there was little to no traffic on the roads. I could hear the howl of coyotes in the distance, as well as the barn owl who likes to sit in the branches of the sycamore which we planted when Barrett was born. And all around me the barn cats were sitting on the ground probably wondering at what I was looking. I was looking at light that has been travelling through space at the

speed of light for millions of years. A scientific narrative might be able to explain this, but to me it is simply a mystery. And faith has to have an element of mystery to it. We do not have all the answers. We need to acknowledge our dependence on God and God alone. And standing near our wild meadow, surrounded by the sounds and smells of a land emerging from a winter's sleep beneath a brilliant canopy of stars, I realized that we tend to sweat the small things in life. We must surrender our fears and anxieties and have a little faith. A little faith goes a long way. And as I stood and soaked up the enormity of the moment, I turned to the opening sentences of Eucharistic Prayer 4, one that we do not use that often, but we really should. It goes as follows.

At your command all things came to be:
the vast expanse of interstellar space,
galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses,
and this fragile earth, our island home;
by your will they were created and have their being

From the primal elements
you brought forth the human race,
and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill;
you made us stewards of creation.

I waited for another 20 or so minutes to see if the northern lights would appear, but no such luck. And as I turned to head back to the house, the solar powered light in our wild meadow caught my attention. The light, if you recall, illuminates a small plaque which was placed in front of our little Tamarack tree in memory of a twelve-year-old girl who died as a result of a bike accident. I walked over to the tree and said hello. Whenever I walk by the tree, I always say "Hello Molly". I often do, I said a prayer for Molly's family, that they somehow find peace in the middle of this maelstrom. And as I finished the prayer, a brilliant falling star streaked across the night sky and I knew my prayer had been heard.

God's creation is awesome.

My prayer for you is that you take the time this evening, if possible, to go out and view the night sky. It will put things into perspective.

Let us pray

Creator of the universe, the light of your glory shines in the darkness of our lives. Make us attentive to your presence, prompt to serve you, and ever eager to follow in the footsteps of the one who is our true light, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Que Diosito me los colme de bendiciones y alegria

Paz

I love you

John

Prayers of the People for 7th Sunday of Easter - by Juanita Kynoch - bjkynoch@hotmail.com

Let us once more cast our cares upon the Lord.

O God, in the resurrection and ascension of your Son, you have drawn us nearer to yourself. Together with your son may we be together also with all the people of the world.

Circle all your nations, towns, villages, tribes and countrysides with your love. Encircle all people with your great arms. Encircle all lands with your Son's marks of mercy.

Center all the scattered, and call them together. Hold us together or we will be lost. Awake us or we will fall asleep in dangerous places.

Where nations are angry and plot harm against one another, bring your love. Where there is hunger, hurt, persecution, empower your love.

O God of mercy, we have your promise that we are loved. Hear our prayers for all the world, hungering for your love, the love of your Son without end.

We 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 16 May 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Paul Sherwood** and the people of **Trinity, Simcoe**.

We pray for our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes. Especially remembering: 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, Janice S., Barbara S., Ian M., Carol H., and anyone known to you.



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.

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/Dx_V4KL4_-8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the continued threat of COVID-19 in our area, in person Church services remain suspended. We will continue with our online services.

If you have anything you would like to contribute or comment on, regarding the newsletter, please do not hesitate to let Rev Enrique or myself know.

Any birthdays in May – 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 the birthday section, please send me details.

Sing along to this morning's hymns

247 – Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

1. Hail the day that sees him rise, alleluia!
To his throne above the skies; alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, alleluia!
Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!
2. There for him high triumph waits; alleluia!
Lift your heads, eternal gates; alleluia!
He hath conquered death and sin; alleluia!
Take the King of glory in. Alleluia!
3. Highest heaven its Lord receives, alleluia!
Yet he loves the earth he leaves; alleluia!
Though returning to this throne, alleluia!
Still he calls the world his own. Alleluia!
6. Lord, though parted from our sight, alleluia!
Far above the starry height, alleluia!
Grant our hearts may thither rise, alleluia!
Seeking thee above the skies. Alleluia!

#278 – Jerusalem the Golden

1. Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blessed,
Beneath thy contemplation sink heart and voice oppressed.
I know not, O I know not what joys await us there,
What radiancy of glory, what bliss beyond compare.
2. They stand, those halls of Sion, all jubilant with song,
And bright with many an angel and all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them, the daylight is serene,
The pastures of the blessed are decked in glorious sheen.
3. There is a throne of David, and there, from care released,
The shout of them that triumph, the song of them that feast;
And they who with their leader have conquered in the fight,
Forever and forever are clad in robes of white.
4. O sweet and blessed country, the home of God's elect;
O dear and future vision, that eager hearts expect:
Even now by faith we see thee, even here thy walls discern;
To thee our thoughts are kindled; for thee our spirits yearn.



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 lpparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page