

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**  
**John 14:1-14. Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life**

**Gospel Reading**

**John 14:1-14 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)**

**Jesus the Way to the Father**

14 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe<sup>[a]</sup> in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going.'<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know<sup>[d]</sup> my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'  
<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.'  
<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me<sup>[e]</sup> for anything, I will do it.

**Sermon. Revd David Treharne**

During my time in school I only once read in front of the 'whole school.' The reading? John Chapter 14, "*DO not let your hearts be troubled...*" John 14:1

These Gospel words spoke at the time to a petrified teenage boy that didn't want to read in front of the whole school and these words continue to speak to me as an adult who still prefers not to read in front of other people! The words continue to speak comfort and hope powerfully to grieving families as they bury loved ones. These words speak to all those anxious and fearful at this time, particularly those worried about their own health or about family members. The words go deep! "*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me.*" All of you listening, I invite you to allow these words of Jesus to speak deeply to your soul.

The words were of course first spoken to Jesus' closest friends. The scene is the upper room before Jesus' subsequent betrayal and arrest, and Jesus speaks of deeply troubling matters concerning his destiny and the disciples faith would be sorely tested.

Faith and trust in God, and in particular faith and trust in Jesus, would enable the disciples to face what lay ahead. *“Don’t be troubled. Trust me! Trust in God”* Faith and trust in God, particularly faith and trust in Jesus enables us to face whatever lies ahead.

We can trust Jesus because he is ***the way, the truth and the life.***

Dwelling on these words (taking them in) switches our focus from our present troubles to future hope. Switches the focus to Jesus himself.

### **Jesus is the WAY**

Want to find the path in life? Look to Jesus.

Want to know God in your life? Focus on Jesus.

I came across this challenging quote. *“I get uncomfortable with any version of our faith which turns Christianity into something that’s **all** about us.”* Yes, the Gospel, the Good News is for us and involves us, but it is about Jesus. He is the Good News, and this text gets us to focus on him!

Jesus is the Way ‘through’ and the Way ‘to...’

The way **through** darkness because he is the light (John 8:12)

The way **through** troubled times because he is with us (Matt 1:23)

The way **through** death to life (Rom 6:1-14 etc...)

He is the companion on the journey like the Emmaus Road (Luke 24). He is the unseen guest at our meal tables and the compassionate, listening, guiding voice in our conscience and our conversations. He promises to be with us always. (Matt 28:20).

Jesus is the way ‘**to**’ the Father (John 14:6)... opening the way to heaven and eternal life through his blood, his cross, his death, his resurrection. *(the cross has a horizontal bar symbolising all that separates us from God and life. It also has a vertical bar symbolising the way Jesus has opened up for us, uniting us to God.)*

He is the way **to** life in all its fullness (John 10:10) in this world and the world to come.

He is the way to the Father, to life and through life because he is the Good Shepherd who can be trusted to lead us.

### **Jesus is the WAY and Jesus is the TRUTH**

This passage raises the massive truth claim in Christianity... the uniqueness of Jesus; that he is the Christ... the Messiah. He is not only the way to God but he IS God!!

As one commentator (Kruse) says, *“No-one else speaks and embodies the truth about God as Jesus does, no one else shares the very life of God as Jesus does, no one else has dealt with the problem of human sin as Jesus has, so as to unite us with God.”*

Jesus has a oneness with God the Father, to the extent he says that he and Father are one, and also that no-one can come to the Father except through him.

This Jesus is at the core of the Gospel and the core of our faith and the core of life itself. This Jesus is at the centre of a massive truth claim in Christianity. That Jesus is the Christ, he is God. All through his Gospel John is trying to show us who this Jesus is, that he is God come down to earth.

Yet. this is a struggle for some people. It was a struggle for the disciples... (*"show us the Father"* says Philip. Jesus responds, *"Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me."*)

Even though the disciples had come to acknowledge Jesus as the Holy One of God who had the words of eternal life (6:66-69) and acknowledged him as their teacher and Lord (13:13-14), they still did not quite grasp the truth of Jesus' unique status union with the Father. *"I am in the Father and the Father is in me"* (John 14:10). *"I and the Father are one"* (John 10:30).

Jesus is not just a prophet, good teacher, miracle worker or even the Messiah... he is the Word made flesh, God incarnate, God with skin on. Jesus brought the truth about God into the world, proclaiming it and embodying it (John 1:14,17; 8:32, 40, 45-46; 14:6; 18:37).

And as Tom was saying at the midweek Communion, if we want to know what God is like we just have to look at Jesus; because when we see Jesus we see God.

In Jesus we see a compassionate, healing, reconciling, trustworthy God. He is not false or fake. He is truth and life and his words can be believed

When we accept and know the truth about who Jesus is... this truth sets us free (John 8:32)!

### **Jesus is the LIFE**

Pope Francis said, *"Truth, according to the Christian faith, is God's love for us in Jesus Christ. Therefore, truth is a relationship."*

To live in intimate relationship with our loving God... or as I prefer to say... intimate union/communion with God. This is the way to live! This is the way to life. God's loving presence in us. To live in this truth.

St Augustine writes that our destiny is to be *"partakers of his life"*.

Indeed John 14:23... says that *"if we love Jesus and obey his teaching, my father will love him and WE will come to make our home with him."*

John 14:2 talks about there being many rooms. I am not sure it is about going to a place so much as it is a metaphor about the astonishing invitation to abide, to dwell in God's presence

It follows that if the life of our loving God makes home in us, then our lives will reveal that same love in action.

*"Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing."* Verse 12.

That is...

Healing, reconciling, restoring, loving, breaking down barriers, speaking hope, peace and justice, doing relationships well, living in the power of the Spirit and in union with the Father.

Jesus shows us what life is all about. He is life! Jesus is God come down to earth and that by believing in him we will have life!

So, what shall we do?

**Believe in Jesus Christ.** Although unseen and possibly unrecognised the Lord is with each of us now by his Spirit looking to make his home in us and give us life now and forever.