

The Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A

The Gospel Reading appointed: **John 14.15-21**

*Andrew's translation and contextual adaptation, based on a reading of the Greek text, using the interpretive principle of dynamic-equivalency ~ **The Process** (Twiddy Interpretive Version)*

The Answer is on the Inside

Jesus spoke to his close friends, on the night before he died, and shared with them some of his most intimate teachings about the nature of life and love, and the evolution of human consciousness and society in regard to that.

'My friends, I ask you to put my teachings to the test in practice. Turn love into action.

And for my part, I will soon be asking my Beloved to send you *another* friend too ~ one who will be with you permanently.

I mean, the *Spirit*. Yes, the *Unitive Spirit*! Of course, the way our society is structured means that people cannot understand this consciousness, or see it, or experience it.

But *YOU* will be experiencing it. Because the Spirit is already with you, and in fact, will be *IN* you.

You see, I will not be leaving you as orphans. This is how I am coming back to you: AS the Spirit.

In a little while, those who are trapped in their role within the structures of our society will no longer see me. But *you* will see me.

Because I am so completely alive, *you too* will start to come *fully alive*.

The day is coming very soon when you will have this new, unitive awareness. This is how I describe it:

I am within my Beloved.

You are within me.

I am within you.

Those who realize this, and act on that basis, are truly my friends ~ the ones who put love into action.

And when you love like that, you will know what it feels like to be loved by my Beloved.

That's how I will remain your friend in the future, and that's how I will continue to reveal myself to you.'

Hymns of the day will include:

Opening	645	Come Down, O Love Divine
Gospel	70	Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts
Closing	532	What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Sixth Sunday of Easter (White)

Sunday, May 17th, 2020.

The Readings may also be found on the Anglican Church of Canada Lectionary website:

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2020-05-17>

Readings

ACTS 17:22-31; PSALM 66:7-18; 1 PETER 3:13-22; JOHN 14:15-21

Collect

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
riches beyond imagination.
Pour into our hearts such love toward you,
that we, loving you above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A First Reading Acts 17:22-31

17:22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.

17:23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

17:24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,

17:25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

17:26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,

17:27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him--though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

17:28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

17:29 Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

17:30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

17:31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The Psalm Psalm 66:8-20

66:8 Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,
66:9 who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

66:10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.
66:11 You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

66:12 you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.
66:13 I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,

66:14 those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
66:15 I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah

66:16 Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.
66:17 I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

66:18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.
66:19 But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

66:20 Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

A Second Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22

3:13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

3:14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,

3:15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;

3:16 yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

3:17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

3:18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,

3:19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,

3:20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

3:21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you--not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

3:22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.