



10 MAY 2020



Happy Mother's Day to all our mums, and all who mother in our community, may you have a special day

Please join us for worship on Facebook at 9 am this Sunday morning so we can all worship together.

Lectionary Readings

This Week May 10

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

Next Week May 17

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

John 14:1-14 What and where is Heaven?

What and where is heaven? It is not on an outer planet in spite of our tendency to point up to Heaven and down to Hell. Having said that, I am not at all clear on where it is or what it is like. Rather, I choose to trust in the words of Jesus in today's reading from John's gospel. ***"In my Father's house (heaven) are many rooms...I am going there to prepare a place for you.*** Any clearer? I'm not. What is Jesus saying and why can't he be clearer? Maybe it was just too hard to explain.

So what was Jesus doing in the explanation he made? I suggest that he was addressing the real issues being raised. Concerns like... *"is there enough room for me?"* and *"how do we get there?"* How do I get there? ***"Jesus says in verse 1, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God: trust also in me."*** If you believe in Christ there is room for you. V3 ***"And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be there with me that you may be where I am."*** If this is true, and I believe it to be, it is all you need to know about the life hereafter. His explanation is not a map of the geography of Heaven, but rather, an assurance that we will be with Christ.

In the same way Jesus deals with the question of heaven in today's passage, he also addresses another question, what is God like?

In the passage from John today, Thomas and Philip question Jesus as to what God is like. In verse 8, Philip said, ***'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'*** Jesus, probably exasperated, replies in verse 9.. ***"Don't you know me Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."*** It doesn't matter what Heaven or God looks like, what matters is what God is like, and that Heaven is a place where God is present. What then do we learn about God as we see Jesus? God is forgiving as Jesus forgave, God is patient as Jesus was patient in teaching his disciples. God is all knowing as he knew so much about people he came in contact with throughout the New Testament. God is powerful. You will recall that Jesus, through his miracles, was able to change the course of people's lives. In fact, that is the point at which today's passage finishes. Verse 12. ***"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father. And I will do anything you ask in my name. So that the Son may bring glory to the Father."***

Powerful words, because we have a powerful God, one who wants us to follow the lead of Jesus as he cared for the needy, as he loved the unlovable and showed others the way back to God.

We are assured in today's scripture, that we have a place in God's Heavenly place, if we know God by understanding and following in the steps of Jesus. - Adrian