

May 06, 2018

6th Sunday of Easter

**Keep my commandments and you will be my friends!**

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35,44-48

Psalms 98:1-4

1John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

Peter enters the house of Cornelius and exclaims how true it is that God shows no partiality. The upright man, fearful of God is acceptable. The Holy Spirit descended upon all who were listening and they glorified God as they spoke in tongues. The disciples with Peter were surprised that such should happen to Gentiles as they were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Psalmist indicates he will sing a new song to the Lord; he will sing joyfully and with praise. The Lord has done wondrous things and has made his salvation known to the ends of the earth; the Lord is kind and ever faithful.

John emphasizes that love is of God and so we are to love one another. Everyone who loves is begotten of God and knows God. God's love was revealed in that he sent his Son for the expiation of our sins and we now have life through him.

Jesus tells us he loves us just as the Father loves him. To remain in his love we need to keep his commandments and in this way we continue to be his friends. Jesus kept the Father's commands and so remains in his love. He tells us everything he has heard from the Father when we remain in his love.

The unseen Father gave his love a human face,  
And the Son teaches  
With words alight in the Spirit's flame.

Jesus set the example for us. Follow my commandments, he says, just as I followed the will of the Father. In this way we will remain friends with the Father and the Son and be surrounded by their love. Such friendship will heighten the joys of our lives and mitigates the sorrows of adversities we encounter. Be as the psalmist and sing a new song to the Lord!

**Love**

Lord, we are weak in love and imperfect in virtue and we need strengthening and comforting by you. Lead us to communion often and guide us in understanding the words of Scripture.

May your love cure my heart of all undisciplined affections so that it is inwardly healed and cleansed enabling me to persevere in goodness even when things do not go according to my expectations.

Love is a great thing and a great good in every way; it lightens burdens and tempers inequality; it dissipates bitterness; it enables us to seek and do noble things; it wills to be on high and is not constrained by things below; it gives inward vision that rises above worldly entanglements; its strength and goodness is unsurpassed;

Love is of God, and enables us to rest in God, and so rises above anything of the world; it inspires us to seek higher good without feeling burdened in the process; it conquers all and nothing brings a greater fulfillment. Love succeeds where all else can fail.

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