

Bible reading John 10:1-10

Hymn 531- Singing-The Faith-*What a Friend we have in Jesus*

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me. **2** My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Jesus the Way to the Father

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you really know me, you will know^[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

9 Jesus answered: “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. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

New International Version (NIV)

Reflection

Each time I read this text it reminds me of Bobby Macferrin’s 1988 song “Don’t worry be happy, in life we have some trouble but when you worry we make it double, don’t worry be happy”. How resonating is this song to Jesus’ message which has come to us at such a time. Jesus in his farewell discourses is preparing his disciples for his

departure and knew that their hearts would be troubled. Jesus was preparing his disciples for what was coming and knew it was going to cause some worries, fears, anxieties and disappointments. Jesus was giving the disciples a message of assurance, comforting them, promising them that he was going to prepare a place for them and giving them hope. For a minute, I thought how befitting the message is for us at such times. We are living in awkward and unprecedented times and not knowing what will become of us tomorrow and in the future. It is certain that life will never be the same as before. They are people who have lost their loved ones, businesses, jobs, hope because of COVID 19. How befitting that Jesus is encouraging us with the same hope that he gave to his disciples assuring and comforting them. Jesus knew that life was not going to be a bed of roses but a journey of pain, suffering and heartbreaks. Some of us might be reading this sitting alone in our homes with no one to talk to except for maybe our pets. There is a reassuring message from Jesus this week. Jesus is saying “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me.² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.” At this time

of uncertainty may we be comforted by Jesus’s words of comfort, reassurance and hope and keep singing “What a friend we have in Jesus” Hallelujah! 🙏🙏

Prayer

We thank you father for you talk to us at times we least expect. We never thought at any time that your word will comfort come to us at a times as this when we are filled with fear and uncertainty. At times as this, we can only hold on to your promises and word reassurance that we should not worry but to believe in God and believe in you. For in you Lord we surrender our fears, worries, anxieties and discomforts. It is through your reassurance that we have hope. In you we know we have a friend who walks with us and bears our burdens. We pray that you be with those who are alone and are scared. We say all this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen 🙏🙏

*Prepared by **Rev Mary Sachikonye Methodist Minister for (Mile Cross, Costessey, Trinity Thorpe Marriott, Hosford and Drayton) for a time as this. We are a church without walls. We should therefore, continue to proclaim the good news. I will be sending **Words of Hope** every week so that we may continue to nourish our spirits and continue to live in HOPE!***