



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

17 May 2020

Dear Friends,

In our reading this morning from John's Gospel, Jesus continues his farewell speech to the disciples. He tells them that he is sending them an Advocate, the Spirit of truth. This promised Advocate will help and support Jesus' followers as they keep his commandments through acts of love in and for the community.



Please continue to support our Parish financially in so far as you are able. Your offertory may be sent to the Parish Office by cheque (St Luke's Church Mosman, PO Box 162, Spit Junction NSW 2088),



or deposited directly into our bank account (St Luke's Church Mosman, BSB 032-291, A/C 810105). Alternatively, you can contribute to offertory at: <https://donorbox.org/st-luke-s-anglican-church-mosman-support> (type or copy and paste into your browser).

If you would like to contact me, please feel free to do so. My contact details are on the back cover. Please continue to be assured that you all remain in my thoughts and prayers in these challenging times.

Fr Max

The Reverend Dr Max Wood, **Rector**

PLEASE PRAY FOR...



Our Diocese, Northern Region and our local church community

The Archbishop: The Most Revd Dr Glenn Davies

The Regional Bishop: The Rt Revd Chris Edwards

Northern Region: Parishes of Gordon, Hornsby and Hornsby Anglican Chinese Church

Local churches: St John's Uniting Church, Neutral Bay

Missions 2020

Anglicare Sydney:

Mobile Community Pantry Program;

Bill Farrand, Anglicare Community Services Manager

Bush Church Aid:

BCA Indigenous Ministry Officer, The Revd Neville Naden and Mrs Kathryn Naden

Anglican Board of Mission:

Sustainable Livelihoods Program, Kenya;

The Revd John Deane, ABM Executive Director

Those we are holding in prayer

The Immediate Sick:

Alex Dimitric, Lisette Crowle, Mary Douglas, Pam Brooks, Liam Gorman,

Henry Long, Brian Miles, John Amor, Ian Stevenson

Those Requiring On-Going Prayer:

John Dimitric, Irina Dimitric, Justin Reid, Heather, Bernie Walsh, Keren Snell,

Benji Morris, Christine Hurford, Shannour, Chloe Turner, Denise Thomas,

Eileen Menzies

People in Residential and Home Care:

Dawn Holdaway, Ruth Burleigh, Richard Lloyd, Betty Gemmell, Mary Shuttleworth,

Elaine Porter, Helen Huby, Bev and Dorothy Bashford, Brian Miles, Pat Wood,

Jean Barton, Rosalie and Denis Pearson, Robin and Kevin Wilks

A Prayer for the Day

O God,

you have prepared for those who love you

joys beyond our understanding:

pour into our hearts such love for you,

that, loving you above all else,

we may obtain your promises

that exceed all we can desire;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

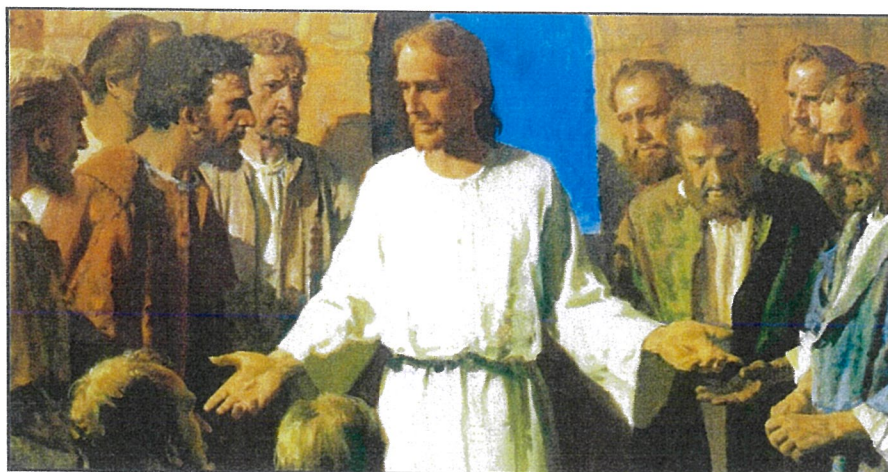
Acts 17:22 - 31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 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. 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, 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. 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, 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. 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.’ 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. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 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.”

John 14:15 - 21

Jesus said: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.”

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”



Anglican Parish of St Luke, Mosman

Postal Address: PO Box 162
Spit Junction NSW 2088

Street Address: 4 Heydon Street
Mosman NSW 2088

Telephone: 9969 6910

Email: office@stlukesmosman.org

Website: www.stlukesmosman.org



@StLukesMosman

Temporary Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9.30am - 1pm

Helen Bell, Parish Manager
T: 9969 6910
E: office@stlukesmosman.org

Parish Contacts

The Rector:

The Reverend Dr Max Wood
E: rector@stlukesmosman.org
T: 9969 6910
Mb: 0439 475 714

Church Wardens:

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Paula Turner | Mb: 0421 151 290 |
| Phillip Seale | Mb: 0405 198 420 |
| David Burke | Mb: 0414 824 035 |

St Luke's is a place of rich and diverse liturgy, where life and faith connect. We are a progressive community that welcomes all people regardless of gender, age, race, sexual orientation or religion.

Sermon 17 May 2020 – Easter VI

Natalie McDonald, Lay Minister

Readings:

Acts 17:22-31

John 14:15-21

"May the words of my mouth and the mediation of all our hearts be now and always acceptable in your sight, O Lord our strength and redeemer."

Introduction

"...I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.."

Our gospel this morning opens, with the poignant moment of Jesus trying to make something **plain** to his followers: **all** he asks, is that they make the goal of their **own** lives, to embrace the love **he** has shown **them**. He uses the very strong image of orphans to grab their attention. The life of orphans in those times would have been dire. No one to protect you. No one to advocate for you. You would have been alone in the world – powerless and voiceless. Jesus is reassuring his followers that he will **not** abandon them.

John's Gospel was written in an age of empire, for people surrounded by agents of the emperor, images of imposed dominion, with the weapons and the military to enforce imperial power. It's difficult to imagine a sharper contrast to the imperial

understanding of the way the world is, than in our gospel this morning. At this time it's surprising that Jesus assures his followers they will not be alone in their efforts to live a life shaped by love, for **all** they see around them is life ruled by terror and overweening power. He's acknowledging that choosing to see reality through the lens of **love**, in the midst of **empire** is very difficult.

The love Jesus wants his hearers to embrace, is not an abstract philosophical concept, but the observed reality of the life, relationships, and actions of a simple Nazarene; who looks like them, talks like them, and lives among them. He feeds the hungry, touches lepers, heals the sick, and speaks and acts toward women with care and respect. Love is seen in **his** life, as service and compassion, but is also seen in his fierce protests against those who abuse his vision of the value of each person, and the importance of mutual regard and care. Instead of power as **domination**, Jesus invites those who meet him, to imagine power that has a goal of the **well-being** of **all** people **regardless** of their social status.

Sometimes understanding a foreign idea, requires a truly transforming experience. Jesus chose the Passover meal to drive home his point about love, and the relational power it creates, as he took up a basin and towel and washed the feet of those who called him Teacher and Lord. The love to which God calls us, does not have hierarchy, and the status and the power that goes with that. **This** love, calls us to be neighbours, and to recognise in the person whom we normally turn **away** from, as one whom God **also** loves, and calls **us** to love.

What would our community be like if we were to recognise that Christ is truly present among us, when we keep his commandments to love and serve one another? Look around our community – our church community where we serve, as well as the greater community in which we live, and see where you can discern the presence of the Spirit of truth. What would that community be like?

Conclusion

John's Gospel probably took its final shape at the end of the first century, in a community where most of the members **never** knew Jesus on earth. This community told the story of the anxiety of the disciples facing life **without** their teacher. John's community addressed its **own** anxiety, by repeating the calming words of Jesus, reminding them that access to the Father continues, in its adherence to his commands, and the promised Holy Spirit or Advocate.

Our community **also** lives in anxious times, and we too are in need of calming and reassuring words. We will **not** be left alone as orphans in the world – powerless and voiceless. Jesus will **not** abandon us. Regardless of time or place, Jesus message stands: "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.."

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen