

Reflections for the 5th Sunday of Easter

Room For All

During this strange time of restrictions on movement and meeting together, I have been struck by the significant events in the gospels that happen when small groups of people are shut away in a room together. We see this in the appearances of the risen Jesus to his disciples, and (as we will soon celebrate) on the day of Pentecost.

We see the same in this Sunday's gospel reading (John chapter 14 verses 1 to 14), which is part of Jesus' teaching to his disciples as they gathered in 'a large room upstairs', at what we call the Last Supper.

As they approach a time of hard testing, Jesus offers comfort and reassurance to his disciples as he says 'In my Father's house are many mansions', 'many dwelling-places', 'plenty of room' (verse 2). In these words there is for them, and for us, a promise of God's loving welcome and hospitality, of an open and generous place with room for all. And the way to that place of welcome and freedom is in Jesus himself, who is 'the way and the truth and the life' (verse 6).

Christian Aid Week begins on this Sunday, May 10th, and, like many other things, it will be different from usual this year, as the traditional door-to-door collections and other events will not be possible. But it is still possible to make donations via their website: www.christianaid.org.uk, and also to find out more about the ways that they are continuing to work with people and communities throughout the world to seek to bring an end to poverty.

As we mark Christian Aid Week, and continue to respond to all the challenges of our current situation, we have many opportunities to reach out to others in need, and to be ready to give as we have received, and offer to our neighbours, both close at hand and throughout the world, the open and generous love that we have received from God in Jesus Christ – the way and the truth and the life.

Revd John Waller

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.