

**Reflection for 5th Sunday of Easter – 10th May 2020 – Year A –
Acts 7:55 – 60 and John 14:1 – 14**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.”

“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places.”

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

Have you ever heard anything more comforting than these words of Jesus?

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Jesus spoke these words of comfort to his disciples just after he had finished the last supper with them, after he washed their feet with his own hands, commanded them to love, talked about how one of them would betray him, how even Peter would deny him before the time of sunrise (ch.13). All that Jesus said, made disciples sad and confused. And two disciples voiced their confusion. First, Thomas, darling Thomas, asked, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ And Philip in his confusion asked, ‘Lord, show us the Father.’

At this time and moment, we probably can relate to both of these disciples. Not only are we sad because we find ourselves lockdown and in isolation. But we are also confused because we working in the unfamiliar circumstances, try to figure out how to keep our children interested in their school work and not to be completely swamped by boredom. – So similar kind of questions can be on our lips. What is the way? Where’s God in all this?

When Jesus says, *“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places.”* It got me thinking how we actually do have those ‘many dwelling-places’ in our lives already, not just in the eternal life, as we so often relate this passage to. Later in the passage, Jesus uses the word ‘dwell’. In verse 10 he says, *“the Father who dwells in me”* and that he *“is in the Father and the Father is in”* him.

So today this passage challenges us to think about our homes – yes - our homes as places where God’s presence dwells. This passage challenges us to deepen our understanding of what it is to dwell in the God’s presence in our everyday lives.

For most of us, our homes are anything but the sanctuary, a place of stillness, quietness, tranquillity. Even I have struggled to find a spot in my home where I feel that yes – here I can dwell in the God’s presence. But boy when I found it, I didn’t want to leave.

Trust me, this dwelling place can be the most weirdest or ordinary of places: whether a front of a lit candle, in the pantry, in the closet, in the laundry room, in the garden, in the garden shed, in the balcony, by the kitchen sink window. Whatever this place is for you to dwell in the God’s presence, once found, you too like me, don’t want to leave from there.

Of course, it may be a little bit tall order to try to find the dwelling-place to be in the God’s presence amongst all we live right now. Rather we feel way more like Thomas and Philip, not knowing the way and acting if we never “seen” Jesus and God. Despite of those feelings, here’s something to ponder: **We know the way and we have seen Jesus and God.**

Dear Easter people, disciples of Jesus Christ and God’s beloved children, from the Bible we know of Jesus’ life, what he did and what he said. We know of his love, through those acts of love while he lived and through his death on a cross. But we also know of his love in our own lives, through all those answered prayers. And we know of his resurrection and his life with the God.

We know the way even if we think we don’t. The way isn’t easy. It takes time and at times it’s a rocky road. That’s why this passage’s challenge to finding our own places to dwell in God’s presence, other than the church building, is so important.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled”

“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places”

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life”

says Jesus, and that is our Good News on this fifth Sunday of Easter in the Lord’s Year of 2020 while in lockdown.

Amen.