

Easter 7: 29th May 2022 Church@Home... *Some reflections from Lauryn*

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Yes, it is still Easter! Jesus has been resurrected, and for the past several weeks our gospel readings have been from the gospel of John, from chapters 14-17, which is called "The Farewell discourse." I do encourage you to sit down and read these three chapters. Over and over again, Jesus is trying to explain what is going to happen to him and trying to make sure that the disciples understand who he is and who they are.

"As you, Father, are in me, and I am in you, may they also be in us." "May they be one as we are one." "I in them and you in me." "I am in the Father and the Father in me; he who believes in me will also do the works that I do." "Whoever who loves me will be loved by my father and I will love them."

The words circle round, the love circles round, in an endless pattern, like a Celtic knot.

There must have been moments after the crucifixion of Jesus when the disciples were overjoyed to see Jesus again, when they believed that he had not left them after all! He returned to them!

No wait... he is leaving again. "I am going to ascend to my father," he says... and they see Jesus disappear again. It must have been a confusing time to be a disciple.



The next time you are in church, look closely at the Celtic cross on our pulpit frontal, the cross with a Celtic design. Here we see the cross of Christ, and we see the intertwining knot which symbolises Father, Son, Holy Spirit and creation: interrelated, entwined, eternal. As followers of Christ, we are bound up in this pattern, bound up in this love shown by Christ on the cross, which has no beginning and no end.

This promise of eternal love... it can take your breath away! It is what young lovers promise when they marry: to love one another forever. It is what parents promise

when they lay eyes on their newly born child: I will love and protect you forever. It is what we hope for when we share a deep friendship.

Well... life doesn't always work out the way we dream it will. Sometimes, in spite of their best efforts, or more prosaically, because of their worst impulses, those young lovers do not love one another forever. Sometime in spite of our highest hopes and dreams, that parent –child relationship is fractured and no amount of love or counselling or patience can make it whole. Sometimes that friendship we cherished is not deep enough to survive conflict or distance. Our weaknesses, our sinfulness, are too great.

Not so with God. Jesus promises, I will not leave you orphaned. Although Jesus is ascended to heaven, he promises to send us his Comforter, the Holy Spirit, which will empower and enable us to live this vision of unity, one with another and one with God. Like the disciples, we now wait for the coming of the Spirit, for the fulfilment of God's eternal presence with us. Come Holy Spirit, Come.