

Easter 5 2020 Devotional May 10, 2020

Happy Mother's Day

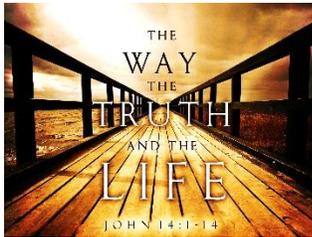
In England, "Mothering Sunday" originally had a different meaning. It was the day when churchgoers in outlying villages and hamlets would make the journey to the "mother church" of the parish, taking offerings. By the sixteenth century, when many young women worked in the homes of the wealthy, "Mothering Sunday" became a holiday when they could return home to visit their families. Often, they would bake a cake to present proudly to their mothers.

In America, Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia in 1907 suggested an annual day for mothers should be kept. At a church service people were asked to wear a carnation in honor of their mother. The custom soon became known and spread to other places. And now we honor our mothers this day, May 10, 2020.

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life"

John 14:6

This Sunday we will hear those familiar words of Jesus as he was preparing his disciples for his departure. This section of the Gospel of John is known as the "Farewell Discourse" of Jesus. It is given at the Passover Meal that Jesus shared with his disciples, where he instituted a new meal, what we call the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, the Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Altar.



We begin with the phrase, "*Do not let your hearts be troubled.*" A fitting verse for us, as we are living in these strange times of the coronavirus pandemic. Plenty I suppose for us to be "troubled" over. Jesus very quickly moves us to the prescription for conquering this troubled spirit. In a word, "Believe", or as it is sometimes translated "Trust" in the Lord. The implication of this "trust" is the sense of solidarity with Jesus.

The "Discourse" moves quickly to a set of questions posed first by Thomas, and second by Philip. These questions help to open a more finely tuned response from Jesus. From the images of a dwelling "place" with God, we are moved to consider the dwelling of God in our hearts, and a movement from "place" to the "way", to that all encompassing relationship that God has established with us through the incarnate Jesus. "*I and the Father are one*" Jesus will say. Do you believe this? Do you trust this?

We will take in all three of the Scripture passages this morning and we will touch on that theme of how we can believe, and trust, and know our glorious God.

I am glad that you have joined us this morning for worship.
May our worship be a blessing!

Pastor Dave Beard