

Sermon for Senior Sunday
Preached by Kirsty Bollinger
May 3, 2026
John 14:1-14

Good morning everyone, I'm Kirsty Bollinger I'm a graduating senior from Fairview high School, and I've been attending FPC for as long as I can remember I grew up in the church from infancy to senior in high school And I'm very excited to be able to give this sermon today.

It is truly good to see all of your bright and smiling faces on this beautiful morning. And if you're not smiling yet—that's okay, give me a few minutes... we'll see what we can do.

Now let me start with a question: Have you ever been completely lost?

And I don't just mean "I missed my turn" lost. I mean really lost. The kind of lost where your GPS freezes, recalculates five times, and you start thinking, "Well... I guess this is my new home now." You're looking around like, "Do I learn the language here or just accept my fate?"

We've all been there. Growing up in times when I felt lost in my faith but there have been several people who helped me to find it may be through confirmation with Ms Rhonda or through our Sunday morning cookie and hot cocoa routine with Miss Leanne One way of finding faith can be through nature and it's extraordinary beauty like at nacome In the beautiful natural area It has lush forests and fun activities but it's a great way to bond with your church community and church family.

But here's the thing—being lost isn't just about directions. Life can feel like that too. One minute everything makes sense. You've got a plan. You know where you're going. And the next minute? Everything shifts. Suddenly you're confused, overwhelmed, maybe even a little scared. Your thoughts start racing like a hamster on a wheel—going fast but not actually getting anywhere.

And in those moments, we find ourselves asking, "Lord... what is going on?" Now believe it or not, that's exactly where the disciples were in John 14.

Jesus had just told them He was going away. And you can almost feel the tension in the room rising. These are the same disciples who left everything to follow Him. They walked with Him, talked with Him, saw miracles with their own eyes—and now He's saying He's leaving?

You can almost hear them thinking: "Wait... now? This is when you leave? What are we supposed to do without you?" And they're still trying to figure out if he's just joking or not.

And right into that moment of fear and uncertainty, Jesus says something so simple, yet so powerful: “Let not your heart be troubled.”

Now let’s be honest for a second. If someone walks up to you while you’re stressed and says, “Hey, don’t worry,” what’s your first reaction?

It’s usually not, “Wow, thank you, I’m instantly calm now.” No, it’s more like, “Okay... but I am worried.” Your mind is already ten steps ahead, running through every possible scenario—most of them not good. But Jesus doesn’t just say, “Don’t worry” and leave it at that. He gives them a reason. “You believe in God; believe also in me.”

In other words, He’s saying: “You’re not as lost as you feel. You still have something solid to stand on—faith.” There is a place prepared for you. Then Jesus says something incredibly comforting: “In my Father’s house are many rooms... I go to prepare a place for you.”

Now think about that for a moment. Most of us, when we have guests coming over, we go into full panic mode. We’re cleaning like our lives depend on it. Stuff is getting shoved into closets, under beds, anywhere it can fit. You light a candle, spray some air freshener, and hope nobody opens that one door. It’s kind of like when you’re trying to figure out what college you’re going to attend and scrambling to find the perfect one to fit you.

But Jesus isn’t doing a last-minute cleanup job. He says He is preparing a place for you. That means intention. That means care. That means you are not an afterthought. You’re not being squeezed into heaven like an extra folding chair at Thanksgiving dinner. No—you belong there.

And I don’t know who needs to hear this today, but you are not random. You are not forgotten. Your life has purpose, and your future is being prepared with love. Jesus also says “I Am the Way”

And bless Thomas’ sweet heart. Thomas speaks up—and honestly, I appreciate Thomas, because he says what everyone else is probably thinking already but is too scared to say anywhere outside their head. He says: “Lord, we don’t know where you’re going, so how can we know the way?”

Translation: “Jesus... we are completely lost.”

And Jesus responds with one of the most powerful statements in all of Scripture: “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Notice what He does not say. He doesn’t say, “I’ll send you directions.” He doesn’t say, “Here’s a step-by-step guide—good luck out there.”

He says, “I am the way.” That changes everything. Because if getting through life depended on us following directions perfectly... we’d all be in trouble. We’d be spiritually circling the same block, missing the same turns, over and over again.

But the good news is this: The way isn’t a set of instructions. The way is a person. It’s a relationship. And following Jesus isn’t about having everything figured out—it’s about trusting the One who does.

Seeing God through Jesus, and how he's always there for us no matter what time of day or night it is.

Then Philip says: “Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough.” And Jesus basically responds: “Philip... you’ve been with me this whole time. If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.”

In other words: If you want to know what God is like—look at Jesus. Look at how He treats people. Look at how He forgives. Look at how He shows compassion. He doesn’t wait for people to have it all together. He meets them right where they are. And that’s important, because sometimes people think they have to fix themselves before coming to God.

But Jesus shows us the opposite. He meets you in your mess... and walks with you out of it.

Greater Works (Yes, Really)

Then Jesus says something that almost sounds unbelievable: “Whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things.”

Now let’s pause for a second. Greater things? Because last time I checked, Jesus was healing people, calming storms, feeding thousands of people... And we’re over here just trying to remember where we put our phone five minutes ago. But here’s what He means: It’s not about doing bigger, flashier miracles. It’s about reaching more people with His love. Jesus ministered in one region during His time on earth. But through His followers—through people like you and me—His message has spread across the entire world and across generations.

So yes, ordinary people can do extraordinary things... not because of who we are, but because of who He is. And then Jesus gives this promise: “Ask in my name, and I will do it.”

Now that doesn't mean God is a vending machine. You don't just press a button and say, "Lord, I'll take one stress-free life, two blessings, and maybe a little extra patience on the side." (It would be nice though, wouldn't it?)

What it means is this: When your heart aligns with His... When you trust Him... When you walk with Him... He is actively working in your life. Even when you don't see it right away. Even when things don't go the way you expected. You are not alone. You are not unheard. And you are definitely not forgotten.

What This Means for Us Today

So what does all of this mean for us today?

It means:

When life feels uncertain → Don't let your heart be troubled.

When you feel lost → Jesus is the way.

When you feel unseen → A place is prepared for you.

When you feel inadequate → God works through you.

When you feel unheard → Your prayers matter.

And maybe most importantly: You don't have to have everything figured out. Because the truth is... none of us do. We all miss turns. We all get confused. We all have moments where we stop and say, "Lord... I really don't know what I'm doing right now."

And Jesus says, gently: "That's okay. Just follow me."

So as we get ready to leave today, I want you to carry this with you: The next time your heart starts to feel troubled... The next time life feels confusing... The next time you feel lost... Remember this: You are not wandering alone. You are not without direction. You are not without hope. Because the One who is the Way... is also the One walking with you. And honestly, that's better than any GPS we've ever had. Amen