

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

**John 14:15-21**

### **The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

It will soon be Pentecost; we shall celebrate in a way that the Church has not celebrated Pentecost before, but we are getting used to that, celebrating as never before.

Before Pentecost we have Aldersgate Sunday on the 24<sup>th</sup> May, next Sunday. As I read this line "On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you." My thoughts were taken to that occasion. The faith John Wesley had was transformed when he knew that assurance of sins forgiven.

Some of you will be more aware of what Aldersgate Sunday is than others.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> May 1738 John Wesley, who had been a Church of England Priest for many years "went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street." During the meeting at around a quarter to nine, John experienced his "conversion."

"I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for my salvation." He was sure his sins had been forgiven. This was the great turning point in John's life. This was one part of a transformation of the life of this man of God.

I will not go any further in this story as I do not want to pre-empt what may be the theme of the service on the 24<sup>th</sup> May but you might like to explore it further yourself in the meantime.

To know the assurance of sins forgiven and the presence of God with us is life transforming.

The first disciples went through a number of transformative moments in their lives; from the initial call to follow Jesus, through listening to his teaching and seeing miracles performed. There were the highs of the mount of Transfiguration and the lows of such places as the Garden of Gethsemane and the courtyard of the High Priest. There was the low of the Crucifixion, the high of resurrection appearance. It was that moment when the Holy Spirit fully overtook them that a great transformation occurred – but it was not the last.

As we are drawing nearer to the end of the month, and the feast of Pentecost, reflect upon life transforming moments you have had in your journey with God. If you have not ever felt the close presence of God with you, confess your love for him and ask him to come close and reveal himself to you, to fill you with his presence and cleanse you from your sin.

May this time of living differently allow you to draw nearer to Jesus and allow God to more fully engage with you that when the "doors are unlocked" you may go out with a message of life transforming love to share with, family, neighbour, friends and all.