

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster
May 22nd, 2022, Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 John 14:23-29

I don't know about you, but I don't like big change, and I always feel a sense of sadness and abandonment when a person or family who are involved and have roles leave and move away or die. And yes, it is also in personal life as well.

It is not about being alone as such. I am more of an introvert than an extravert so being alone is not an issue per say.

So, what is it? I think it is more to do with my understanding of myself and realizing I cannot do everything and know who I can call on to do certain things and help do things I cannot do myself, and don't feel good about doing them, so it is comforting to have others be able to do those things instead of myself. So, a change in that dynamic is unsettling.

I am not affected, but some of you are concerned about doctors retiring in the area and losing your family doctor.

The disciples are in an even more traumatic situation as the person they have spent the last three years with who is very central in their lives is talking about leaving them. And their lives will change dramatically. In fact, after Jesus dies, they go back to their lives before him, back to try and continue being fishermen, Peter, James and John and others are fishing when they meet the risen Jesus.

Therefore, Jesus is warning them and preparing them for his departure, and it is necessary for them to begin to do things together without him. And he says this in the beginning of the passage when he says to them to keep his word. *Those who love me will keep my word.*

What does that mean?

I think it refers to the summary of the law.....

To love God with all your heart and soul, mind and strength and love your neighbour as yourself.

And to do it with the peace he leaves them. A peace for action. A peace to know you are not alone, with the coming of the Holy Spirit. Yet the spirit is not about control and predictability. *The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you*

cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit. John 3:8

And a peace to be in relationship.

“Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfil now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.”

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness in the world.

All things break.

And all things can be mended.

Not with time, as they say, but with intention.

So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.

The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.

(Source: L.R.Knost)