

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May EASTER 5

**Read John 14.1-14**

**Reflection**

**Revd Gillian Trinder**

***'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.'***

Today we are invited to reflect upon Jesus' Farewell Discourses which begin with His words of assurance to His disciples: 'In my Father's House there are many mansions' (John 14: 2).

John is very interested in spiritual discourses and he offers us a variety of profound reflections upon bread, wine and the vine and the branches in his gospel. Today's discourse reflects upon the world to come and so it is a favourite choice of passage to read at funeral services together with the well known words of Psalm 23. Here Jesus reminds us of other biblical texts about the Father's House.

The Psalms identify the Temple in Jerusalem as the House of the Lord. Psalm 84 celebrates the joy of worship in the Temple: 'How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord... a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.'

But the temple was only a temporary symbol of God's presence with His people. The reality was fulfilled in the incarnation of Christ when 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us' (John 1: 14). In his gospel John identifies Jesus as the new Temple and focus of worship for believers (John 2: 18 - 22). He alone is 'the way, the truth and the life' (John 14: 6).

So what does it mean for us that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life?

Jesus is the way of salvation because He is the mediator between the Father and humanity - the Good Shepherd of God's people.

Jesus is the Truth because He is the incarnate Word of God and the source of all truth from the beginning (John 1: 1).

And Jesus is the Life because He offers us the gift of abundant life - life with God. In John's theology, eternal life does not begin only after death. Eternal life with God begins right now and it is human life lived with the blessings of divine faith, hope and love. When we accept Christ our Saviour as the way, the truth and the life He will guide us into a better and more meaningful life together with Him.

Richard of Chichester understood this when he wrote the words of his prayer:

O merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
May I know you more clearly,  
Live you more dearly,  
And follow you more nearly, day by day.  
Amen.