

***“Do Not Be Worried and Upset!”***

Our Text took place immediately after Jesus shared his last meal with his disciples, just prior to his praying for them, as he headed to the Garden of Gethsemane, where he would be betrayed by Judas. **What Jesus shared in these verses reveals the most powerful and meaningful aspect of his Gospel or Good News or Light.** Amazingly, Jesus used those last few precious hours and minutes to convey these important words to his disciples, as he quickly approached his own death for the benefit of all humanity! Many have received great comfort from his words in **verses 1-3**, ***“Do not be worried and upset. Believe in God and believe also in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am.”***

However, even though they were in the presence of ***“the Light of the World”***, the disciples were still in the darkness – slow to comprehend Jesus would soon die for them and for us. So, after giving them those words of comfort, Jesus said in **verse 4**, ***“You know the way that leads to the place where I am going.”*** Thomas showed his failure to understand what Jesus was talking about for he said in **verse 5**, ***“Lord, we do not know where you are going; so how can we know the way to get there?”*** Responding, Jesus revealed the special nature of his relationship with the Divine Parent in **verses 6-7**, ***“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one goes to the Father except by me. Now that you have known me, you will know my Father also, and from now on you do know Him and you have seen Him.”***

In essence, Jesus was saying his disciples, which includes as all of us, have no reason to be worried or upset – no need to be afraid! The Light or Truth – the Good News was Jesus spoke in those opening verses about why we are called to live without worry or upset or fear. Jesus was and is God’s Son, who is the ultimate embodiment of God’s Self-Giving and Sacrificial “Agape” Love for humanity. His message meant he was about to fulfill God’s Purpose by dying – demonstrating God’s Agape Love. Further, he would return – be resurrected and eventually welcome his people into God’s Fulfilled Kingdom. By saying all that, Jesus taught his disciples how they had already experienced God and the Divine Parent’s Agape Love through their having witnessed him being the manifestation of it.

This Reading is reminiscent of what the Gospel of John reported in the Prologue found in Chapter 1. **The “Word” was with God before the creation of the world and universe and was the way the Creator created the universe.** The Prologue also revealed Jesus is the ***“Word” in the flesh.*** Everyone benefits from the Creation, not just the religious authorities with their disciples.

Philip continued to demonstrate the original disciples were living in the darkness – were unable to understand what Jesus meant when Jesus told them he was going to the Father. Philip said in **verse 8**, ***“Lord, show us the Father; that is all we need.”*** With little patience

left, Jesus said in **verses 9-11**, *“For a long time I have been with you all; yet you do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. Why, then, do you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe, Philip, that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I have spoken to you, do not come from me. The Father, Who remains in me, does His own work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If not, believe because of the things I do.”*

So, in this Text, we are reminded how Jesus Christ promised to prepare a place for us in God’s Fulfilled Kingdom! His promise brings comfort when we grieve and as we consider our ultimate relationship with the Divine Parent and with the Only Son of God, Jesus Christ. Returning to Jesus’ call for us to not be worried or upset, he promised in **verse 12**, *“I am telling you the truth: those who believe in me will do what I do — yes, they will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father.”* Because of Jesus’ faithfulness to God’s Purpose, you and me and all believers are empowered to do wondrous things to fulfill God’s Purpose! Does that seem unrealistic and foolish? Well, members of this congregation have witnessed God doing great things through us! For example, we were able to build this Main Facility and pay off the Loan in five years. We were able to build our Christian Education Building – the one we lease for them to use during the week to ChildTime and paid off the loan in ten years. Five years ago we raised the funds to Renovate this Beautiful Sanctuary without borrowing any money. We have also seen God doing great things through Round Grove United Church in other ways, such as bringing healing and God’s Love into the lives of people, who have suffered and, especially, those who have experienced rejection or alienation because of who they are. Can God combine those kinds of great deeds through this congregation? **Such as, can we let our Light of God’s Agape Love show through our raising the funds to install a Digital Church Sign, which communicates God’s Forgiving, Healing, and Welcoming Love and invites everyone to live in the Light of God’s Agape Love?**

Jesus had difficulty getting the original disciples to see him as the “Light of the World” and, to then, live in the light and let their light shine. Perhaps that is why Jesus also promised in **verses 13-14**, *“And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father’s glory will be shown through the Son. If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.”*

We, therefore, have reason for joy and happiness and confidence in God’s Agape Love and Care for us, as we remember our Savior’s call to not be worried and upset and his promise to ultimately welcome us into God’s Fulfilled Kingdom. **Live in the Light. Believe in Jesus Christ, the Only Son of our Divine Parent, and let his Light become our Light! “Let Our Light Shine!”** Amen.