



Jesus said to him,  
'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

**John 14:1-14** Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

### **Meditation**

It is important before we look at the passage today, to think about what has taken place which produces the words which Jesus speaks in Chapter 14. In John 13:33, Jesus has said that he is about to leave the disciples. Can you imagine how the disciples would be feeling? Facing the departure of their Lord they are going to be worried. The scene is one of anxiety, indeed Jesus himself uses the word orphans to describe them. The disciples had expected that they would be following Jesus until he established his reign and they would share in that. A future without Jesus

was a shattering thought. It gets worse, Jesus tells Peter that he will deny him, not once but three times. This was truly dreadful, not just for Peter but for all the disciples. Peter was not a bad disciple, quite the opposite. The disciples would know that if Peter denied Jesus, then there was no hope for any of them. Perhaps, in the light of such events to come we can understand the words of Jesus 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.'

Jesus encourages the disciples to move from their fear to faith. Jesus makes it clear that the disciples must believe. And that belief must be not because of circumstances, but in spite of them. Worry is to lose its power because the human spirit trusts in the one who has the destiny of the whole world in his hands.

Worry loses its power when we are in the presence of Jesus. The answer to anxiety and troubled spirits is to trust. To the disciples, what is about to unfold is a disaster. However, Jesus realises that the events which will take place are necessary, not a disaster. John 14 and Romans Chapter 8 are both readings which we use at funeral services because they encourage us to trust in God at the most dreadful time any of us can find ourselves, in the presence of death itself.

### **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead.**

Eternal god, in whom is all our hope in life, in death and in all eternity; grant that, rejoicing in the eternal life which is ours in Christ, we may face whatever the future holds in store for us calm and unafraid, always confident that neither death nor life can part us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We pray for those involved in the big decisions as we move out of lockdown. Remove barriers of mistrust, bitterness, prejudice which sometimes exist. Give to all a spirit of tolerance and understanding, and an earnest desire to seek after you, that all may work for the common good. **Amen**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**