

Bible reading John 14:15-21

Hymn 242- Singing-The Faith-A *New Commandment I give unto you*

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be <sup>18</sup> in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

*New International Version (NIV)*

## Reflection

Sometimes when people ask us if we love them we sometimes pause and think "what's the catch". Some people may find the question tricky and hard to answer. This is not the first time Jesus challenges his disciples about loving him. In Chapter 21:15 Jesus questions Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." It can be a tricky position if the relationship is not solid, but here we have a role model who knows what genuine love is. Jesus Christ who loves us unconditionally, who laid his life for us. In life we have people who have duped us into believing that they love us but later to realise they did not mean it and leave us heartbroken. Our Lord Jesus Christ knows the meaning of genuine love, that has no catches. In the text Jesus is not demanding too much but he wants us to obey his commandments. To follow his ways, to love our God with all our hearts, minds and souls and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves and by so doing the Lord will know that we are his disciples. Jesus's is driven by unconditional love and did not want to leave his disciples as orphans but to leave them with the spirit of truth, the advocate, comforter and helper, the Holy Spirit. That same promise is for us today that Christ will never leave us alone. His love

and care for us is too deep to let us suffer on our own without a helper. Jesus' statement "I will never leave you alone as orphans" reminds me of Captain Tom Moore's fundraising song "You will never walk alone". In life we need people to accompany us in this journey of life. God created us not to be self-sufficient but to be dependent on God and other people. We should not therefore suffer in silence and alone for Jesus promised us that we will never walk alone as long as we obey his commandments. Be assured at a time as this that the advocate, counsellor and helper are by your side. All we need to do is to adjust our mindset and remember Jesus's promise "I will not leave you as orphans". Be comforted by knowing that Christ is with us. Hallelujah! 🙌🙌🙌

### Prayer

Most merciful father, whose love has been shown to us in Christ and in whose Word, we are taught to pray for one another. Help us to pray for your church in all the world; for its unity in Christ; for fulfilment of its mission; for all ministers of the gospel and for all who serve in the Church. Grant that your people may boldly confess their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, and being obedient in all things to him, may set forward the work of your kingdom. We pray for the nations, our own country and its leaders that they may

be guided by the spirit to make right decisions at a time as this. We pray for all other nations and their leadership to seek wisdom from you in their decision-making. We pray for the men and women of every race working in the frontline and all the key workers. Help us to live in obedience to your will, to uphold justice, liberty, truth and to work for the peace and recovery of the world and for the welfare of humankind. Amen 🙌🙌

*(Prayer adapted from a prayer by Norman Wallwork)*

*Prepared by **Rev Mary Sachikonye Methodist Minister for (Mile Cross, Costessey, Trinity Thorpe Marriott, Hosford and Drayton) for a time as this. We are a church without walls. We should therefore, continue to proclaim the good news. I will be sending **Words of Hope** every week so that we may continue to nourish our spirits and continue to live in HOPE!***