

The Cathedral Church of All Saints

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Hymn during Communion CP 553

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est
Live in charity, and steadfast love, live in charity; God will dwell with you.

Source: *The Taizé Community*

Sending Hymn # 400 *What Wondrous Love Is This*

Postlude: *Romanze in F major, Op. 118 no 5 - Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)*

Obeying Jesus' Commandment of Love



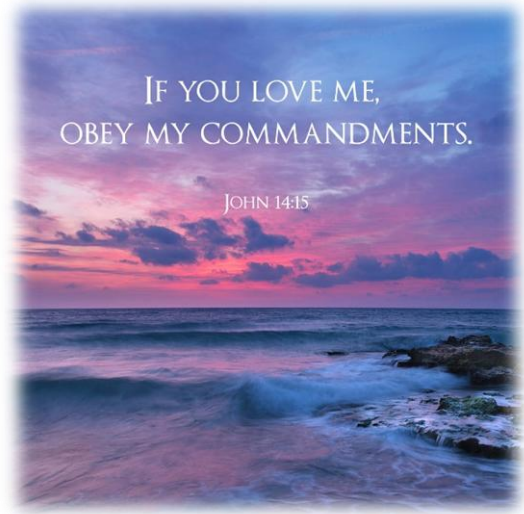
Charitable actions are easy. But cultivating my heart? Preparing and pruning it to love? Becoming vulnerable in authentic ways to the world's pain? Those things are hard. Hard and costly. And yet Jesus's words in this Gospel are crystal clear. It is NOT sufficient (or even meaningful) to profess love for Jesus while we hold ourselves apart from our fellow human beings.

To love Jesus is to love others. All others. The lover, the friend, the neighbor, the companion. But also, the alien, the stranger, the misfit, and the enemy. The ones with whom we agree, and the ones with whom we emphatically disagree. The ones we naturally like, and the ones we don't.

If our lectionary this week ended with Jesus's call to obedience, I would despair, but mercifully, there's more to the story. We don't have to love all by ourselves. We don't have to do the impossible on our own. Jesus's desire is not that we wear ourselves out, trying to conjure love from our own meager resources. Rather, his commandment is accompanied by a promise: "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever."

The Advocate is God's own Spirit, God's own heart, living within us. This Spirit, Jesus promises us, will be in us, making possible the startling, counter-intuitive obedience which is love. This Spirit will abide within and among us, creating holy places where authentic, self-sacrificial human love can take root and flourish. The Spirit's resources are inexhaustible. Long after our natural stores are depleted, the Spirit of God will love in, among, and through us.

- *Debie Thomas*
<https://www.journeywithjesus.net/essays/2640-love-and-obedience>



May 10, 2026

Piano Prelude: *Reverie in F minor - Dennis Alexander*

Opening Hymn # 388 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

Children's Message



Collect

**Three-fold God of love,
you invite us to abide in you.
May we follow the Spirit of truth,
so that through us your commanding love
may speak to the heart of the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**
Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

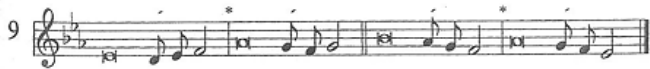
The Proclamation of the Word

Reader A reading from the book of Acts (17:22-31)
Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said,
"Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among

them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116: 1-3, 10-17 Chant 9



Bless our / God, you peoples,*
 make the voice of his praise / to be heard,
who holds our / souls in life,*
and will not allow our / feet to slip.

For you, O / God have proved us;*
 you have tried us just as sil-/ver is tried.
You brought us in-/to the snare;*
you laid heavy burdens up-/on our backs.

You let enemies ride over our heads;
 we went through / fire and water,*
 but you brought us out into a place / of refreshment.
I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay / you my vows,*
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I / was in trouble.

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
 with the / smoke of rams;*
 I will give you ox-/en and goats.

Come and listen, all you / who fear God,*
and I will tell you what he has / done for me.

I called out to him / with my mouth,*
 and his praise was / on my tongue.
If I had found evil / in my heart,*
the Lord would / not have heard me.

But in truth, / God has heard me;*
he has attended to the voice / of my prayer.

Gospel Acclamation



The Gospel

All stand, as able, for the proclamation of the Gospel.

Deacon The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**
Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus
 Christ according to John (14:15-21)
People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Preparation Hymn # 645 *Come down, O Love Divine*



Today the Wine, Host, and Bulletin are offered in loving memory of Merlene Seymour Adderly, Nassau, Bahamas