

Pentecost Sunday  
Sermon Text: John 14:8-17, 25-27  
Date Preached: May 23, 2010

Note: Confirmation for Noah, Taylor, Haley, Conner and Troy

Grace to you and peace from God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN.

For three years the disciples of Jesus followed him. They learned from him what it means to live as God intends.

Even during this exciting, awe-inspiring, sometimes fearful journey, there were still moments when the disciples failed to understand what was happening around them and through them. That is what lies behind Philip's request of Jesus. "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Nonetheless, Jesus continued to teach. Jesus continued to literally, show them the Father through his life.

Troy, Conner, Haley, Taylor and Noah, this is a very similar journey that you have taken. For the past three years you have been learning, praying, worshipping, and participating in the life of this congregation. Your teachers, parents, mentors and the members of this church have to the best of our ability attempted to help you see the Father.

Like those first disciples of Jesus, we have not been perfect. We have failed at times to see the face of Christ in each other. There are many who are critical of Jesus' disciples in this day and age because of our failings.

Likewise, there will be some people who will look at you with a critical eye and fail to see the face of Christ in you. There are times when that will hurt.

Yet there will also be those moments that you may never even know about, when you reflect the love of Christ in such a profound way that it changes a person's life. It may come at a time when you simply listened to another's heartache. It may come at a time where you did a simple kind thing that to you was no big deal.

Those are grace moments. Those are moments when in the cry to see the presence of God, they see God's grace in you. It is there that you will show them the Father. It is there where the Spirit of God is alive and well in you.

When we were baptized we were sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. The Holy Spirit is our advocate who helps

us in our weakness. The Holy Spirit helps us to show others the loving God and Father we believe in.

In every relationship we have be it with family members, friends, the people we have opportunity to show the value of our relationship with God.

When you come to church, that action says that your relationship with God is important. Church isn't about adding something to an already busy schedule in our lives. Here is the place where together you are held in prayer while asking you to pray for others in the family of God who worship with us.

Here is where the promises of Christ presence are renewed in our lives. The hymns, the confession and forgiveness, the reading of Scripture and the sacrament of Holy Communion are moments of God speaking to us through the Holy Spirit.

Here is a place where we encounter the presence of a forgiving God, who even when we fail to see Christ in others or to show Christ in our own life says to us, "I still love you."

Today, Noah, Haley, Taylor, Troy and Conner, you are continuing your walk with God that began in your baptism. In your walk with the Lord, let your love

for God shine in your life, and celebrate the presence of God in the lives of your best friend and the stranger. AMEN.