

**REV. JIM'S
THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS
May 2019**



"I'm telling you these things while I'm still living with you. The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you. I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. Peace. I don't leave you the way you're used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don't be upset. Don't be distraught. John 14:25-27 The Message (MSG)

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Loving God! In the days since Easter I've been thinking and praying about the amazing promise Jesus gave his disciples before His death and His re-turn to heaven. In John 14:25-27 we read, and re-read the comforting words Jesus shared with His dear friends when he promised them they would never be alone and that God would send them a friend, the Holy Spirit to "make everything plain" to them. I especially like the words from The Message that shares this promise from Jesus.

The older I get the more I'm aware of all of the changing circumstances of our life here on Earth. Life changing and life threatening illnesses shake the foundation of life. Changes in family relationships and changes in employment relationships shake the foundation of life. Even something as exciting as starting a new relationship, being blessed with a child or grandchild, or starting retirement can shake the foundation of life.

The more I talk with folks, the more I realize loneliness is a fact of life that often rears its "ugly head" when we are in the midst of changing circumstances that shake the very foundations of our life. Loneliness often occurs when folks need to make what appear to be life changing decisions in the midst of life changing circumstances. We realize no-body can make these difficult decisions for us. That's a lonely place at times!

The words of Jesus from John 14:25-37 are the promise that God will not leave us in a desperate place where we might flounder in loneliness. God's promise is that He will send us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us. The Holy Spirit will "make everything plain to you." The Holy Spirit "will remind you of all the things I have told you." Jesus promises "I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. Peace."

May we all feel the calming and reassuring presence of the Holy Spirit as we live the abundant life that God promises us through our relationship with Jesus!"

Love and prayers,
+ Pastor Jim