



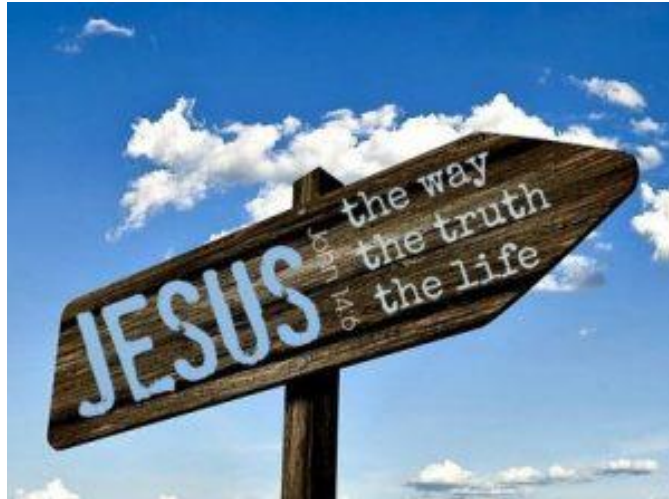
# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

*"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."*

**Our Vision:** *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

## THIS SUNDAY May 10 & BEYOND

### THE WAY TO THE HOUSE OF GOD



This Sunday's Gospel reading tells us about God's House and the way to this House. John the Evangelist presents this conversation between Jesus and His disciples before His Passion, but it is, nonetheless, a very becoming Easter text, for it is a wonderful reference to the Resurrected Life that Jesus is offering His followers.

Jesus knows about fear. He is perfectly human and perfectly divine, so He knows what it is like to be afraid. And how to overcome it too.

He starts by encouraging His followers to overcome fear. Fear is the real opposite of love. We normally think hatred is, but what is the ultimate source of all the hatred in the world? There is always the fear of losing something or even someone. We hate those that threaten to take something or someone from us. We cling to possessions, positions, prestige, relationships, and we do not realize that this prevents us from expressing real love. Real love is not possessive or self-centered. It is selfless and

forgiving; it casts out fear because when love fills our life, there is nothing to lose, and we stop fretting about possessing. We do not need anything because we have it all.

This is what Jesus means when He encourages His disciples to believe in God and also in Him. Real believing is much more than sustaining an opinion. It means an inner conviction that is life-transforming. It means embracing the new life that follows the way of love, God's and Christ's way. There is no limit to the inclusiveness of this new way. There is unlimited room in God's all-welcoming House.

Do we know the way? Honest and straightforward Thomas claims they do not. Philip insists that they must see the Father and then believe. After so many centuries of Christian following, we feel ashamed to declare that we do not know the way either, or that we want a tangible proof to believe. We feel inclined to condemn both Thomas and Philip. But are we there yet? Are we rid of fear and already living in the House of Love, in God's and Christ's House?

Following the Way of Love implies truth. We need to be honest to ourselves, to God and to others. We need to start by recognizing the truth of our fearful lives, our broken lives, our petty self-centered lives, and then move on to a new and plentiful life, the one that Jesus has shown us through His words and deeds, the only true life.

It is in that sense that Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life. We get to know God's love in the words and deeds of Jesus. His works transpire God's infinite love. This is the only truth we should be concerned about. The irrefutable truth of God's love. There is nothing philosophical about it. It just is. And real life is the product of that truth.

But following the Way of Jesus' Love to the House of God is not about wonderful abstract love. Jesus is crystal clear about this, "He who believes in me will do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father."

How can we cast out the fear in the confusing times we are living right now? Jesus is the way. He is the truth. And He offers us the real life in God's House of Love. But He did not mean any abstract way of being. He is commanding us to do His loving works, and greater works still. So let us set ourselves to the task. The time is now.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 17:1-15 Psalm 66:1-8 1 Peter 2:1-10 John 14:1-14

## CALENDAR

**SUNDAY: The Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
All Saints' Sunday 9am Service  
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

7:00pm Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

**TUESDAY** Noon Service  
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**FRIDAY** Christian Formation Study at noon  
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

**SUNDAY The Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
All Saints' Sunday 9am Service  
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)