

Reflection on John 15:26-27; 16:12-15
Pentecost Year B -24th May, 2015

Today's Gospel reveals the interconnectedness of everything – the one Jesus named as *Father*, the one named as the *Spirit of truth* and the one we know as Jesus the Christ. Jesus is *glorified* through the mystery and revelation of this relationship. Just as the *Spirit of truth is a witness* so are we to be. We are intimately part of this relationship; *we too will be witnesses to it.*

In a most profound way the spiritual journey is one of *waiting*. The disciples of Jesus had to *wait* in absolute helplessness, grief and fear and there was nothing they could do to make the Spirit come except *wait*. We too must learn to *wait* for *truths* to unfold and be made known to us. We must learn to *wait* for the *Spirit* over and over again. This *waiting* deepens us in Faith and Love and yet it can feel painful and bewildering. Like the disciples we may feel alone and deserted but if like them we can open into listening deeply to our hearts we will learn to *stay* in this mysterious place of *waiting*.

In this place we are being grounded in Faith and the more we open into the experience of it the more we will learn to trust it again and again. The beautiful phrase in today's Gospel: *I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now* reveals to us that it is *done unto us*. So often we are tempted to think we must be doing all the doing in this relationship. Initially that will most probably be our experience – we are in the driving seat. But this Spirit will eventually teach us with great patience and Love to get out of the driving seat and just *wait*. We will learn the futility of our often persistent efforts to try and make things happen. We will learn over time to perhaps even laugh at ourselves and our own efforts to be in control of this relationship. All God really wants is for us to be still, to wait and to rest in this great Love and we are promised this Spirit will come. If we know something of this experience we will know that this promise is never ever broken. The Spirit always comes in ways we never expect or imagine when we remain faithful to this *waiting*.

As I pondered all this these words came to me that may give some expression to this:

*Surrounded by Love,
yet falling into emptiness;
not with and not without.*

The Cosmic Dance persistently wooing our broken hearts.

*Why do You hide in the darkest of places?
Or, is it I who hide in the light of my own making?
Hiding and seeking in the midst of Unknowable Presence,
Yet I know You in the simplest and most complex Realities.*

*I see You, but then I don't see you.
You beckon me to wait in this darkness.
How could I bear it for one moment if You were not already there with me?
Your Living Breath lures me to keep company with You,
to rest in the abyss that promises everything yet so often feels like nothing.*

*Let yourself fall so deeply into My Love that you are dizzy in this Mysterious Presence.
Let My Love hold you steady, let Me teach you, let Me Love you, let Me be your guiding companion.
Your aloneness will Breathe fullness into your whole being,
And you will weep with tears of Joy as you are held in this Incomprehensible Communion of Love.*

On this day of Pentecost (which is every moment of every day) can we cry out with the psalmist: *Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth?* Can we open our minds and hearts, *waiting* in anticipation, to *receive* this Spirit so that the whole Cosmos may be *glorified*? Will we dare to *ask* for such a Grace for ourselves and for our world?