

I'm a home body. I love being at home. The first thing I do when I get home is put on my pajamas. I am comfortable at home. If I know I'll be at home all day, I don't bother putting on make-up, fixing my hair, or dressing nicely. I'm comfortable with just being. When I'm home, my guard is down. I feel safe and at peace. In my home, I surround myself with things that are meaningful to me, things that are inspiring that enhance the feeling of a being in a sanctuary. Feeling "at home" is more than retreating to a place to rest from our labors and from the world. It's being "at home" with God and having the divine make their home with us.

This is what happens when we become believers. As Easter People, Christ calls us to believe, so that we receive the peace that comes when we feel "at home" with God. This scripture passage is found within the same context of last week's. Jesus and the disciples are still in the Upper Room after the Last Supper. Jesus is telling the disciples who is he, his relationship to God, and what is about to happen with his death and resurrection. It's a lot to take in, but he tells them before it happens because he wants them to believe (v.39) when it does. Because when they believe, they are connected and "at home" with him.

At the beginning of this scripture, it says, "Jesus answered him." Let's take a moment to see whom Jesus answered and what question was asked before we dig in to Jesus' answer. I imagine this to be like a small group setting or a family meeting. They are sitting together and talking. They've formed a connection together and feel safe to ask questions. Several of the disciples are asking Jesus questions to help

them understand more fully what Jesus is explaining to them. Jesus welcomes those questions. Jesus still welcomes our questions, encourages our questions, because answers to our questions often lead us to believe.

Judas Iscariot had already left the room, so the other Judas asked, "Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, but not the world?" (v.22) Jesus is revealed to those who seek him, and so often the world does not. Jesus is revealed through love, and so often the world is lacking in love. When we believe, we keep his commandments to love God and love others, and so Jesus is revealed to us through that love. Jesus comes to us and becomes a part of us, making a home with us, when we love and when we believe.

Jesus knows it's hard for us to always keep his word. We do live in the world, so sometimes it seems impossible to love like Jesus does. However, he sets us up for success. He explains to the disciples that we are not alone. We are part of something bigger. Jesus said he will send a Helper. A Friend. A Counselor, Comforter, and Encourager. An Advocate. Different translations of the Bible use different words to describe the Holy Spirit. But, the Greek word for Holy Spirit, "paraclete," literally translates as "one who comes alongside." Whatever word we use or connect with, the meaning is the same. The Holy Spirit comes to us and walks alongside us to help, guide, and assist us when we believe.

The Holy Spirit is part of the Holy Family, the Trinity, and helps us become part of that family. The Holy Spirit brings us peace within ourselves and with our place in the divine family as the fourth member of

the trinity. The Holy Spirit brings peace to our home, (v.37) to our center, to our lives.

Let's face it. We don't live in a peaceful world. With the continuous threat of violence in what was once considered safe places, the problems of the world steal our peace. No place is truly safe these days. No one is immune from the world's pain. Our homes, schools, and places of worship are now the battlefields. The wars we fight are no longer over there, but here in our everyday lives. The long-term effects of an entire generation of children who have been traumatized from school shootings is yet to be seen. Austin Eubanks, the Columbine survivor, gives us a glimpse of our future. For twenty years, he attempted to bury his emotional pain through painkillers. Even though he seemed to come out of his addiction and become a voice for a movement that could no longer be silenced, his family said, he "lost the battle with the very disease he fought so hard to help others face."

Over and over, we hear heartbreaking stories of pain and brokenness. Our hearts are troubled, full of fear and anxiety. We are all seeking peace in some situation in our lives, and we will never find that peace in the world. Christ told the disciples long ago and it's still true today, God is the peace we so desperately seek.

As long as we live in this world, we are susceptible to trauma that steals our peace and fills our very being with fear and anxiety. But when we believe in God and welcome the Trinity into our hearts and invite them to be at home with us, we

receive what the world can't give. Jesus knew it was important for the disciples to believe, and for us to believe, because it is through believing that we receive what we all desire – connection and belonging.

When we believe, God in 3 persons, comes to us and makes their home in us. We feel comfortable and at ease. We feel safe. We let our guard down. We're ok with just being. We surround ourselves with love and what inspires us to love. We have found where we belong. We become "home bodies" with the holy family and take our place in this divine presence.

Let us pray:

"Holy Trinity, Mystery of Love,
Holy Community, Heavenly Family,
we open our hearts to your presence,
making your home with us.
We sit among you, sibling,
gathered at our table,
fourth member of the Trinity.
We open our hearts to your peace,
settled about us like a home.
We open our hearts to your whole family,
all of us beloved,
all of us siblings,
all of us enfolded
in your loving, peaceful presence.
All of us holy.¹

Amen.

¹ Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Peaceful Presence*,
www.unfoldinglight.net.