



## Grain

“Let joy be unconfined...” –George Gordon Byron

Submitted by Deb Martin, Oshkosh

### Field

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them." John 14:15-21

### Thoughts

Have you seen any of the cartoons portraying Jesus chatting with someone over coffee? In response to an individual's comments or questions Jesus, with a mug in hand, offers wit or pithy insights. If God sent God's child in whatever human form into our lives today, I'd like to ask some questions over espresso. If we spent enough time together I'd probably develop an emotional attachment, and like the disciples, be disturbed to say good-bye.

“I will not leave you orphaned.” Jesus knew of his follower's grief. We can relate to it, reflecting on people we've lost. But it is likely that the disciples were not only troubled by anticipating how they'd deeply miss Jesus, but also the prospect of losing direction. Their relationship to God was intertwined with the physical presence of their teacher, to whom they gave a tremendous amount of authority. They searched for meaning through Christ and made comments to him such as, “You have the words of eternal life.” Jesus was able to guide them into new horizons they couldn't have imagined for themselves.

It is perhaps easier to relate to historical stories of Jesus and to imagine a contemporary Messiah drinking coffee with us than to the Holy Spirit. That God was incarnate was crucial, but the spirituality Jesus taught people was never confined by his human body. The love he taught was about what would resurrect in his follower's hearts. It was always about the unexpected wind or breath that would clear their minds, teach them about forgiveness, advocate for them in their deep distress, and guide them in how to walk with others. That is the Advocate Jesus left with us. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy Crane