



You Need the Paraclete

August 22, 2021

John 14:15-27

Connect:

- *Paraclete* is the Greek word we most typically translate as '*Holy Spirit*'. If the Paraclete is our teacher, we are always in school. We are never too old to learn. As students start another school year, share a word about a back-to-school ritual you practice(d) with your family or one of your favorite subjects in school.
- As balloons played a prominent role in Sunday's message, share a memory (*good, bad, or otherwise*) that you had with a balloon in your lifetime.

Engage

- Read *John 14:15-27*. Varied traditions of the faith look at the Holy Spirit in very different ways. Some limit the Spirit's presence to an emotive experience only. Other traditions distance themselves far from that emotion in hopes of a much more tame and controllable presence of Spirit. What is your experience with the Holy Spirit? How would you describe such a relationship?
- A moving and honest question asked by Judas (*not Iscariot – as the text interestingly clarifies*) was, "Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us but not the world?" How do you believe the Lord is revealed to us now?
- As promised time and time again in scripture, God is going to make '*all things new*.' We will be continually tempted a thousand different ways not to believe this. How do you balance discouragements you've faced in life against this all-things-new promise of God?
- Jesus is clear to say, "*I do not give peace as the world gives*." Some have described the world's peace as "*the absence of conflict*." Such peace, however, generally requires a winner and a loser. Would you describe world peace in this way? How does Jesus offer peace? What is the difference?

Next Steps:

- Jesus' final word to his disciples was "*I will be **with** you...*" This was the ultimate promise of *withness*. Like any relationship, time, investment and listening are important keys to growth in your walk with the Paraclete. How can you be more attuned to the presence and movement of God's Spirit in your life? Make some plans and be intentional about practicing those plans this week.

Pray:

- "*Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. As we can, at times, disappoint ourselves and disappoint others, we know your Spirit walks with us each and every step of the way. Thank you for such a gift of presence. May we sense you, heed your call, and be all the more encouraged so we can be an encouragement to others. Amen.*"