

Dear Friends,

It was good to “see” many of you again on Sunday evening. It was also great that a good number were able to phone in from landlines and join us in that way. I have heard good comments about the breakout groups so that is something we’ll be doing again. We experimented with a Grove coffee morning on zoom this week and I guess we shall be doing that again shortly. I am conscious that there are a good number of you who can’t manage zoom. We can offer some assistance to anyone who would appreciate help in getting onto zoom. Just get in touch and let me know that you would like some assistance.

This week’s reading (John ch14 vs1-14) is another of the “I am” sayings from John’s gospel. At the Last Supper Jesus is trying to prepare his friends for the time when he will no longer be with them physically. Jesus says to them “I am the way, the truth and the life.” We can see these words as offering pointers to some of the most basic questions we ask like “Where am I going in life?”

Jesus is saying here “I am the way. Follow me, I’ll show you the way to go.” We can see in Jesus how human life should be lived, we can see a pattern for us to follow. There are many who claim to know the way to live, people who teach the way to self-fulfilment, or the way to achievement and success. But Jesus is different, he declares that he is the way. He has gone before us to open up the way to God so that we can follow. He has opened up the way to heaven, the way to life with God. We can go that way because Jesus has gone before to prepare the way for us.

But there’s even more to it than that. Jesus doesn’t say “That’s the way” and point us in the right direction, he says “I am the way.” Imagine you’re in a strange town and you ask for directions. Suppose the person you ask says “Take the first turn on your right, then the second on your left. Cross the square then go left past the church, take the third turning on the left and then the second on the right.” Faced with that most of us would get lost halfway there. But suppose the person says “I’ll take you there.” That makes all the difference. That person then becomes the way and we can’t miss it. That’s what Jesus does for us. He doesn’t just give us advice and directions. He walks with us, he guides and helps us along the way. He doesn’t just tell us about the way, he is the way.

With best wishes,

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