

Dear Friends,

JOHN 14: 1-14

Jesus dwells in God. He says "I am in the Father". Jesus, as the one who abides in God, is also the one who reveals God. At the beginning of John's gospel, it says, "It is God the only Son, who is in the Father's breast, who has made him known". There is one other occasion in John when the word "Breast", which I wrote about yesterday, is used. It is at the last supper. Jesus and his friends were not sitting on chairs at a table. They were on the ground, on their sides, next to each other. The disciple closest to Jesus is described as leaning on Jesus' breast. We are told that the one in this place is "the one whom Jesus loved". We later learn that this is the one who wrote the gospel. It is most often thought of as being John. As Jesus dwells in the breast of God and makes God known, so John sees himself as dwelling in the breast of Jesus and making Jesus known, which he does through his gospel.

The longing of Jesus is to bring all people and the whole creation into the breast of God where he and the beloved disciple dwell. Jesus says, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places ... I go to prepare a place for you ... and if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am there you may be also". In a prayer to God he says, "As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us". And he invites you to dwell in God when he says, "Abide in me".

This abiding however has two sides. As Jesus prepares a dwelling place for you in God's heart, so he also tells you of the dwelling place where God wants to make God's home. Jesus says, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our dwelling place with them". As Jesus lovingly prepares a place for you, so you are called to prepare a place for God. You do this through your love for Jesus which shows itself in keeping his word. Do you long for God to make God's home in you? I wonder then, what does it mean to keep the word of Jesus?

God bless you,

Tony