

May 9, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Transformation!

FRIENDS
(for the love of God)

Rev. Emma Chattin
Preaching

First Reading ~ *John 15:9-17*

[Jesus continued speaking.]

As God has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept God's commandments and abide in love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from God. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that God will give you whatever you ask in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Rev. A. Powell Davies in "Without Apology"*

I become more and more certain as the years go by, that wherever friendship is destroyed, or relationships are broken, or precious ties are severed, there is a failure of imagination. Someone is too intent on justifying themselves, never venturing out to imagine the way things seem to the other person. Imagination is shut off and sympathy dies. If we know what it is that makes other people speak or act as they do, if we knew it vividly by carefully imagining all that may lie behind it, we might not quarrel. We might understand. Often we could heal the wounds. But even where that is not possible—and of course, we have to admit that it is not always possible—even where fuller understanding only leaves us rather sad and helpless, it would still give us the power to be kind—to act, yes, but still to be kind—to go on being kind. And in a harsh world, like the world we live in today, God knows that even that is something—to go on being kind.