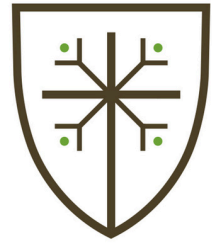


SERMON NOTES



May 10, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Help and Home"

PREACHER

Rev. Brent Baker

TEXTS

Acts 17:22-31

Romans 8:9-14

John 14: 15-21, 16:7

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When do you find yourself forgetting about your reliance on God? How does he often remind us of our need for help?
2. In what ways do you see the Spirit "renovating" your interior life, making it a home fit for God?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

If you could have Jesus with you in the flesh as he was with the disciples or the Holy Spirit, which would you choose? How could the Spirit as our Helper possibly be an advantage? These are the questions Brent looked at in this week's Eastertide sermon.

The Help

In our gospel reading, Jesus promises his disciples that he will ask the Father to send them a helper in his place. One can imagine the disciples' bewilderment. Help is difficult for more of us. We don't like to be dependent on anything, especially the divine. We prefer to treat God like he's out of sight, out of mind, only engaging him in desperation but not in a constant state of need. But the reality is, God does not exist as a result of the imagination of men. We depend on him for everything, even our very life. The reality of helplessness serves as the basis for what it means to be human. But so few of us cry out for help until desperation strikes and we sense our need for help - which is where the disciples are right now, hearing that Jesus is leaving. His promise is to send "another." The adjective in Greek uses here implies "another of the same kind" - a helper just like himself. Everything taught by Jesus would be done by the spirit of truth.

While Jesus walked the earth, his presence was localized. But the Spirit universalizes his presence with the followers. He will be with each of them always. And while Jesus' ministry was mostly external to the disciples, to them and around them and with them but not in them, the Spirit internalizes the transforming power of God in his followers. Their lives become a home in which the transforming presence of God might dwell.

The Home

Jesus also promises that his followers will not be orphans. He will not leave them without a home. Through the Spirit, no matter what sense of loneliness his followers face, through faith in Christ all are given a home and a place in the household of God. He gives us a home in him and he makes his home in us. This is not just a future promise but one that is being made a reality even now. The verb tense confusion in the gospel passage shifts it from a collection of future promises to something more immediate and radical, something good is on the way now - a present reality and present help. His followers experience the transforming presence of God not just for them but in them now.

In Romans 8 Paul tells us that the "same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead now dwells in you." The Spirit makes your life into a home worthy of God's presence. He comes in and opens all the closed doors to clean and set straight all the rooms of your life. He changes us from the inside out. When the Spirit renovates your home, others will notice and wonder what is going on. What is internal must eventually make its way out to others.