



Words for the Way

An online Lent Course for the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

Divine Love

Monday 8 May



Statue of Julian of Norwich, Norwich Cathedral, by David Holgate FSDC

John 14: 21-26

Jesus said 'They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.' Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?' Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.'

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

In today's Gospel reading Jesus speaks of loving him and the implications of this – revelation of the divine love. That in loving God, keeping the commandments, leads to a closer relationship with the Trinitarian God and we have the Holy Spirit to remind us of Jesus's teaching's and help us in the world as we seek to love God and and love our neighbours as ourselves. Today is the day in the Scottish Calendar when we remember Julian of Norwich, who experienced visions revealing aspects of the love of God, that she then spent the next twenty years reflecting on their meaning. These formed the book *The Revelations of Divine Love*, the first book written by a woman in English. She became an anchoress – a woman walled into a cell for a life of prayer and contemplation and was attached to the Church of St Julian in Norwich.

Today you're invited to reflect on what Divine Love – the love of God for you and your love of God. How might you describe it to someone, are there symbols or metaphors that help you reflect on the gift of Divine Love?

“And in this he showed me a little thing, the quantity of a hazel nut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed. And it was as round as any ball. I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding, and thought, ‘What may this be?’ And it was answered generally thus, ‘It is all that is made.’ I marveled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen to nothing for littleness. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God.

In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second that God loves it. And the third, that God keeps it.”

Julian of Norwich in Revelations of Divine Love

To listen

Prayer of Julian of Norwich, Op. 528 by Carson Cooman, a version is by the Choir of Royal Holloway

Holy as a Day Spent by Carrie Newcomer

These can be found on a playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/72omFXFjUHKiHcvk9OYv4?si=0b356c51045b422b>



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