

(John 17:20-26, NIV84)

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

"Keep six feet apart!" Yeah, yeah, we've all heard that a lot these days.

So, how wonderful to hear our Savior pray to His Father these words: "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

There are people in our society and around the world who look at what is happening to us and the restrictions that have been placed on us, and they relish the thought that we Christians are not able to gather for worship.

They haven't a clue.

We are united in faith and in hope and in love, with Jesus Christ as our Head. Not six feet, not six-thousand feet can separate us from the love of Christ or from one another -- we are members of the Holy Christian Church!

God bless you as you worship Jesus -- with your brothers and sisters in Christ -- separated but together in Him!

Linked in the one true Christian faith with you in Christ, Pastor Golm

-----

April 8

Open House in Heaven

I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:3

No one can trace the trend of the Savior's thoughts during the closing scenes of his earthly life without being deeply impressed by the one compelling force which lay behind his every word and deed: His affectionate attachment to his faithful few, and his deep desire that his intimate and free companionship with them be continued in his Father's house above.

Thus, for instance, in his high-priestly prayer in the Upper Room that night, after imploring the Father's many blessings upon all Christians of all times, he highlights this prayer of prayers with the jewel of all

petitions: "Father, I will that they also whom thou hast given me be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me." He shares with his Father a desire which, when he repeats it to his disciples, becomes a promise: "I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

Jesus has secured his Father's approval and permission to bring his friends into his Father's house. By his reconciling death he has unlocked the door of his Father's home. Heaven is now an open house! "Where I am, there you"-you who have come to the Father by me-"may be also." What greater delight, what higher ecstasy can the sin-bound soul envision than to spend the endless ages in the Father's house with Jesus! Standing firmly on the Savior's pledge that "where he is there we shall be also", we can sing and say with confidence:

Let us gladly live with Jesus; Since He's risen from the dead, Death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, Thou art now our head, We are truly Thine own members; Where Thou livest, there live we.

Take and own us constantly, Faithful Friend, as Thy dear brethren.

Jesus, here I live to Thee, Also there eternally. Amen.