Our next reading will be from the gospel of John. The text that we will be reading comes from what is called the farewell discourse. The farewell discourse covers chapters 14-17 in the gospel of John and contains language that is unique to the gospel of John. The farewell discourse are words which Jesus shares with his 11 remaining disciples after he has shared the last supper with them and before his crucifixion.

The text that we will be reading will be words of reassurance that Jesus gives to his disciples. These words that Jesus shares will be words describing his departure from them but that the Holy Spirit will remain with them to guide them in the days ahead. We will read what will be the 5th time that Jesus gives reassurances to the disciples about the presence of the Holy Spirit in their midst.

This text and the one that we read earlier come from the Common Lectionary and are chosen today because today is Trinity Sunday. Passages that are used on Trinity Sunday give us descriptions of the three ways that God is manifested.

God is revealed to us which we have traditionally called God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Nowhere in Scripture will you find the Trinity explained or the term used but this passage which we will be reading contains mention of all three expressions of God.

**Read John 16:12-15 (Letarshia)**

In this text that we just read; Jesus tells his disciples that he has lots of stuff to say to them but that they are not ready to hear it. In other words, there will come a time when they will be prepared to hear what he has to say about the Holy Spirit but that now is not that time.

The Holy Spirit will speak to them eventually in a way and during a time when they will need to be moved by the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells his listeners to wait expectantly for the right time for the Spirit to reveal to them what they need to hear.

There is debate in our schools right now about the proper role of testing students. Tests have been developed and standardized to judge the academic qualities of students from across various schools. Some students excel at taking standardized testing while other students struggle.

Students that struggle and don’t do as well in standardized tests can receive the message that they are not as good as other students. That they are dumb. That they lack motivation. Schools can receive poor ratings or high ratings based on the performance of their students on standardized testing.

I recently came across an article in which a group of principals wrote letters to their students about their standardized test scores. Specifically, the principals were addressing those students that do not perform as well as other students. I invite you to listen to what these principals said to their students:

“We are concerned that these tests do not assess all of what it is that makes each of you unique. The people who create these tests and score them do not know each of you the way your teachers do, the way I hope to, and certainly not the way your families do.

They do not know that many of you speak two languages. They do not know that you can play a musical instrument or that you can dance or paint a picture. They do not know that your friends count on you to be there for them or that your laughter can brighten the dreariest day.

They do not know that you write poetry or songs, play or participate in sports, wonder about the future, or that sometimes you take care of your little brother or sister after school. They do not know that you have traveled to a really neat place or that you know how to tell a great story or that you really love spending time with special family members and friends.

They do not know that you can be trustworthy, kind or thoughtful, and that you try, every day, to be your very best. The scores you get will tell you something, but they will not tell you everything. There are many ways of being smart.”

I really like the advice from these principals. But I really like their words because they recognize how we can be told something today that may give us a self-identity that may not be the way that God looks upon us. In other words, we may have received a message yesterday or today but that in time God’s Holy Spirit will give us a different message.

Today as we know is Father’s Day. As many of you know, I really struggle as a pastor with Father’s Day and Mother’s Day. I struggle with how we have different ideas and experiences with our fathers and mothers. Some of us celebrate on Father’s Day while others of us mourn on Father’s Day.

Some of us celebrate great experiences with our Dads or with our children while others of us are mired in difficult experiences. Some of us get to tell our kids or fathers how much we love them and respect them today while others of us like me wish our fathers were still living and that we could talk to them today.

But whatever we may be feeling or sensing now may not be the message that the Spirit will be providing to us in the future. If we listen to these words from Jesus in the gospel of John, we may not yet be ready to hear what the Spirit has to say to us.

The Spirit may be preparing us from something in the future that looks very different than our present. We may not yet be ready to hear what the Spirit has to say to us. But, according to this text, if you are open to God’s Spirit then God may be preparing you for when you are ready to hear what the Spirit has to say to you.

Now may not be the time. But we wait patiently for what the Spirit is revealing to us in the future when the time is right.

Many of us saw the movie Field of Dreams. The movie where the character played by Kevin Costner hears voices telling him that if he builds it, they will come. Costner’s character then builds a baseball field in the middle of his cornfield in Iowa.

I share with you this clip from the end of the movie. A clip that reminds us on this Father’s Day that now may not be the time to hear what the Spirit is revealing to us. But that one day the Spirit will allow us to understand.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lXjz-M_6eN8>

“Field of Dreams (Playing Catch) -High Quality”

AMEN.

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-Palmer, Parker J, “The Scores Will Not Tell You Everything,” <https://onbeing.org/blog/the-scores-will-not-tell-you-everything/#main>

-Given: June 16, 2019 in Allison Creek Presbyterian (York, SC)