

Sermon: 2019/06/04 (Agnes' Funeral) - John 14:1-6_BTR

During supper, there will be an opportunity to reminisce about Agnes and offer your own anecdotes.

Because I *don't* know her as well as many of you;

I'm not as familiar with the ...intimate details of her life as others here.

But she became very dear to me nonetheless, and I sincerely grieve her absence.

And this is because, *as her vicar*, I love that Agnes *loved* St. Matthew's.

She was genuinely glad to be among us, week after week;

to be in *God's* house -

the Creator's "temple;"

worshipping *His* son on the holy day of Sunday - the day when that "son," Jesus, won the most important battle that we all must face: against death - our mortality; our *finitude*.

Proving that what can seem so monstrous, so permanent and unavoidable, is, in fact, a *gateway(!)* to new possibilities - to new *life*.

A 'far better' [Phil. 1:23] life than the one we know.

It is for this reason that I began by saying: "I *don't* know [Agnes] as well as many of you."

(Using the *present* tense.)

Because, though we may not see her, I believe - as the Bible has taught me to believe - the Bible, which is, essentially, eye-witness testimony to this fact - that she abides somehow even now; she *continues* - *at this very moment* - in a manner I cannot explain or measure or observe.

Except that the one who came from there and returned in triumph says "where I am [going], you can be also." [Jn. 14:3]

Let's take a moment to reflect.