

Witness of Love

May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

White

John 14:15-21

When asked to sum up the Christian faith, Karl Barth, the Swiss Reformed theologian who published his multi-volume theological summa and magnum opus known as *Church Dogmatics*, did not reply with an equally extensive, deep-dive answer. Rather Barth was uncharacteristically short in his summation, replying simply, “The most profound truth I have ever known is this: Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

Love. It is the heart of the Gospel, and it really is all we need in the world. Love is the very essence of God. So, when Jesus, before finally ending his post-resurrection Earthly tour to take his place at the right hand of God, tells his friends, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments,” he was pointing to the greatest commandment of all: To love one another.

Loving others as Jesus loved was the very mandate he gave to the 12 who were gathered in the Upper Room on what we now observe as Maundy Thursday. In Latin, maundy means “mandate.” So, Jesus wasn’t suggesting but mandating that we love even when friends hurt and deceive us, just as Judas did after hearing Jesus speak those “love” words. Love through the betrayals. Love through the tears. Love through the gunk in life.

How are we doing with being the great witnesses of love in the world these days? Is love just lip service or are our actions speaking louder than all-too empty sentiments? Are we loving with the unselfish and non-judgmental love of God? Are we letting the love of God infiltrate political camps, dismantle harmful ideologies and remove the hateful distrust of all those who look or think differently than us? For that, my friends, is the love Jesus speaks of. It’s a love he shows you and me — always. It’s time we start witnessing to that kind of love.

Holy and Ever-Present God, may this day we become the powerful witnesses to Your love, caring for others as Your Son taught us by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, befriending the lonely, tending the sick, and visiting those who are imprisoned. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today’s *Sunday Bulletin*.)