

Call to Worship, Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B

*Patricia Torre, DW, Pastoral Associate, Sacred Heart Church, Southbury, CT*

Today is the sixth Sunday in this Easter Season. Our readings today invite us into a deeper understanding of what it means to live the love of Christ in and through the events of our daily lives.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter reminds us that God shows no partiality in loving all people and inviting all people into a deeper relationship with this living God.

In the second reading St. John reminds us again that God is love. The crux of the matter though is not that we love God but that God first loved us. Loving one another then becomes a clear expression and celebration of God's love for us, of God's love flowing through us.

In St. John's Gospel, we see the depth of loving that we are called to emulate: love one another as Jesus loves us. In this then we are no longer called disciples or students but are called friends for we now know what the teacher knows: loving is laying down our lives for one another – for those we love easily and for those who are difficult for us to love.

As we gather around the Table of the Risen Christ this day, let us pray that we may become true friends of God, showing no partiality as we reach out in love to all those in need this day.