

Seventh Sunday of Easter
 Year A, RCL
 May 24, 2020
 North Fork Ministries
 Gospel:
 John 17:1-11

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. "

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 At the end of this prayer, Jesus' last prayer, according to the Gospel of John, the High Priestly prayer, it's called, "Jesus prays for protection for those he is leaving behind, "so that they may be one, as we are one." What does it mean to be "one", as Jesus and God are one?

It's a little disconcerting to recognize that Jesus' prayer for "oneness" among his followers still hasn't been answered. Christianity, even before it acquired that label, quickly faced division along lines of doctrine and personality and culture. And today, Jesus' followers are more scattered and divided than ever. Despite Jesus' fervent prayer that it may be so, we are hardly one.

The High Priestly prayer of John has Jesus praying, "Glorify your Son, so that the Son may glorify you..." and "glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence"... "All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them." That's the kind of poetic, but obtuse language from the Gospel of John that makes me want to run to the synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke so that I can read the earthy language found in Jesus' parables, "You are the