

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

May 22, 2022

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 † Revelation 21:10-14,22-23 † John 14:23-29



Reflection by: Sister Pat Crowley, OP

A story is told of a king who loved the sound of the harp, finding it soothing. Wanting to be surrounded by this sound, he ordered strings placed between the mountains so when the winds would blow music could be heard. Done, he waited and waited, but nothing came! Only when a violent storm arose, frightening everyone, could the sounds of the soothing music be heard.

The early Christian community faces some dissension and debate. Paul and Barnabas go to help. What was needed? Speaking and listening to both sides. Leaders who were trusted. Growth takes place in moments of tension only if both sides are willing to listen and share their insights and concerns. After careful listening, it was decided to set aside those things that were a burden and troublesome, keeping only those that were necessary. These insights and the courage to follow them come from the Holy Spirit, the gift to us as we continue our journey.

Julian of Norwich, a 13th-14th century mystic, said of the human condition: "It was necessary that there should be sin, but all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well" (*Revelations of Divine Love*). In her time, there was plague, war, violence, struggle for power, and yet her insights convinced her that all would be well. How? A deep belief in the Spirit, God's gift to the community. The Wild Goose, persistent, ever present, loud and determined.