

Fifth Sunday after Easter

May 15, 2022

We continue with the Act of the Apostles tracing the development of the Christian Church. Paul and Barnabas travel through what we know today as Turkey creating new Communities of Faith. Times were difficult for the new disciples. The Jewish leaders fought against this newborn church, hoping to trample it out before it becomes influential. Paul and Barnabas also set in place Elders in each community to manage and make decisions regarding its welfare.

In our second reading from Revelations, the author announces a NEW world. The former reality has passed away. Notice this reading is from the last chapter of the Book. Similar to the Acts of the Apostles, the writer is striving to give encouragement to the fledgling community of Churches. They have been struggling for years against persecutions. How much longer before the return of the Christ? The author attempts to give consolation amid tyrannies and torments, hoping to keep hope alive in their communities.

“I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people”.

In the Old Testament to “dwell” is to “pitch your tent”, to make your home in.

Our world today is in need of such comfort, to feel that God is living among us, not beyond us, or above us. May we feel God’s presence dwelling in the midst of us, dwelling with the human race.

We as a nation are in deep need of healing.

May it be so.