

Holy One, open our minds, our lips, and our hearts to give
You praise!

Our Gospel poses a question for us: can we love Jesus even though we didn't (don't) know him in a personal way? This does not mean clinging to Jesus and retreating into a private experience.

If we love Jesus, we *do his works* (mission) and keep his teachings. What this mean is that when we move outside of our own private experience and we live what Jesus taught, and demonstrate it in our own lives – then we will find ourselves in love with him.

John's community is trying to convey to us that a relationship with Jesus does not rely (depend) on physical presence, but on the presence of love of God in the life of the community. The love for God is present whenever those who love Jesus keep his teachings. Further still, it continues to be lived out when the love that Jesus showed in his own life and death is manifest in us!

Amen