

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 8th August

sunnysidechurch

God's Story Part 2: Belonging

Bible passages: Luke 1.67-79; Acts 10.34-43

Introduction

- God's story includes the promise and then the coming of Jesus to restore his creation

God's Story Part 2: Belonging

Story of God in the New Testament

- continuation of God's restoration project
- Jesus comes in fulfilment of all God's promises
- creation of a new community – the Church
- the ultimate happy ending

Themes of God's story in our readings

1. God's faithfulness – he keeps his promise
 - Jesus is the Saviour/Messiah promised by the prophets
2. God's initiative – the restoration project is his idea and his work
 - God is at the centre of the story, not us
3. God's community – the Church belongs to God
 - made up of all who believe in Jesus
 - its purpose is to show the world what it looks like to belong to God and one another

Conclusion

- Acts is a book without a proper ending because the story of the Church continues today
- Revelation is the happy ending we long for and the beginning of a new story

Some questions for discussion

1. Which is your favourite story from the New Testament and why?
2. How does 'Belonging' help you understand what the overarching story of the New Testament is about?
3. Read Luke 1.67-79. How does this story deepen your understanding of last week's theme of God keeping his promises?
4. Read Acts 10.34-43. How would you summarise the story of who Jesus is and what he came to do?
5. 'Acts doesn't have a proper ending because the story of the Church continues today.' What story might you tell about the Church today?
6. 'So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others' (Romans 12.5). What does it mean for you to belong to Christ's body at Sunnyside?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. (Luke 1.68)

Why not spend some time praising God and thanking him for enabling us to belong to him and to one another?

Revd Rebecca Fardell