

SERMON NOTES Sunday 20 October

sunnysidechurch

We believe in God: Introduction

Bible passages Psalm 100 and Ephesians 1.1-14

Introduction

- Important that we know who the God we believe in (or who we don't believe in) is

Credo (from credo: 'I believe and trust')

- Apostles' Creed: a summary of what the Church teaches, and Christians together believe about God
- Nicene Creed: a more detailed summary produced to combat false beliefs which were undermining people's faith in Jesus
- (Athanasian Creed: in BCP but not used frequently in CofE or accepted by other denominations)
- Saying the creed is a statement of confidence

We believe in God

- Relationship: God made us and we are his; he intends us to live as his children and our relationship with him is possible because of Jesus
- Know: confidence in who God is give us firm foundations for our lives as we seek to follow Jesus Provides abundant hospitality which even the enemies of God cannot prevent his guests from enjoying

Conclusion

Exploring the basics of our faith to help us grow in faith and be better able to share who God we believe in is with others.

Some questions for discussion

1. What words would you use to describe God?
2. Read Psalm 100. What does the psalmist tell us about who God is?
3. Read Ephesians 1.1-14. How does this passage deepen your understanding about who God is?
4. Read the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed (below). What do you notice about the God we believe in? Are there statements you find it difficult to believe or understand?
5. Why might it be helpful to regularly say the creed in church?
6. What questions might you like to ask about the God we believe in?
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!

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. (Psalm 100.3)

Why not spend some time thanking God for his who he is and asking him to reveal more of what it means for us to be his?

Revd Rebecca Fardell

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

