

# SERMON NOTES Sunday 24 November

## sunnysidechurch

### We believe in God: Sharing our faith

**Bible passages Hebrews 11.1-16 and Matthew 28.16-20**

#### We believe in God

- God the Father Almighty: God who created all things but with whom we can have a relationship
- God the Son: Jesus Christ whose life, death and resurrection restore our relationship with God which was broken by sin so we can live as his children
- God the Holy Spirit: who lives in us, teaches us about God and helps us become more like Jesus

#### Sharing our Faith

- Fundamentally being a Christian isn't about assent to statements of belief (doctrine) but about a relationship with Jesus
- Best way of sharing our faith is to tell our story about how we came to know Jesus and the difference knowing him makes to our daily lives
- Three helpful questions to have answers to:
  - when did you become a Christian
  - what made you decide to follow J
  - how has knowing J has made a difference to your life

#### Conclusion

- 'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.' (Hebrews 11.1)
- Each time say Creed deliberately placing confidence in the living and loving God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit

1. What have you learnt or been reminded of during our series on *We Believe in God*?
2. Is there a part of the Apostles' Creed (below) that you need to explore more so you might understand it better?
3. Do you agree that at the heart of our faith is a relationship not assertion to a list of beliefs (doctrines)? How might the Creeds help deepen that relationship?
4. Read Hebrews 11.1-16. Which of these stories of faith that encourage or challenge you? You might like to add some others to the 'great cloud of witnesses' whose stories inspire you.
5. Read Matthew 28.16-20. What do you notice about the task Jesus gives us?
6. Who might God be asking you to tell your story of faith to? What might you say?
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!

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Hebrews 11.1)

Why not spend some time thanking God for the gift of faith, asking him to strengthen our trust in him and praying for those you might tell your story of faith to?

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.