

Reflections for 6th June 2021 – 1st Sunday after Trinity

Hiding from God

As children learn through play, one of the things that they enjoy is hiding, seeking, and being found. But sometimes they may want to hide for more troubling reasons, and, throughout our lives, there are ways in which we continue to 'hide' at times – often by trying to avoid people, or situations, that we find hard to face.

Our Old Testament reading, and our story this week, remind us of what we sometimes call the 'fall' of Adam and Eve, as they turn away from God's call and purpose for them. But one aspect of the story that we often miss is that, when they realise that they have done wrong, they try to hide from God.

It is an understandable reaction in a moment of panic, but it is pointless. If we believe that God is in every place, and knows every aspect of our lives, then nothing could be more pointless than to try and hide from God, but we do. At times in our lives, even as we pray, we may be foolish enough to try and show our good side, our religious side, to God, and hope that God doesn't notice all the rest of us.

The good news is that we don't need to do that. In the presence of God all truth is made known, including some truths that we would rather not face, and yet the presence of God is also the place where we find the gift of forgiveness, and the assurance of unconditional love, to help us live in a new way.

In the story Adam and Eve had to leave the presence of God as a result of their actions, but the letter to the Romans reminds us of the good news that:

neither height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (8. 39)

Revd John Waller

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible readings: Genesis 3. 8-15; 2 Corinthians 4. 13–5. 1; Mark 3. 20-35

Story: 'A Sad Day' (based on Genesis chapter 3))