

**Weekly Devotions
South Holburn Church
22nd September 2020**

READINGS

Then they heard the LORD God walking in the garden during the cool part of the day, and the man and his wife hid from the LORD God among the trees in the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said, "Where are you?"

Genesis 3:8-9 (New Century Bible Translation)

Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together.
If one falls down, the other can help them up.
But it is bad for the person who is alone and falls,
because no one is there to help.
If two lie down together, they will be warm,
but a person alone will not be warm.
An enemy might defeat one person,
but two people together can defend themselves;
a rope that is woven of three strings is hard to break.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (New Century Bible Translation)

Each one of us has a body with many parts, and these parts all have different uses. In the same way, we are many, but in Christ we are all one body. Each one is a part of that body, and each part belongs to all the other parts. We all have different gifts, each of which came because of the grace God gave us.

Romans 12:4-6 (New Century Bible Translation)

"Christianity did not begin with a confession. It began with an invitation into friendship, into creating a new community, into forming relationships based on love and service."

Diana Butler Bass



REFLECTION

Our readings today remind us that our God is all about relationships. From the very start of the Bible, in Genesis, we see that the point of our being here at all is fellowship with God. Again and again, the Old Testament tells the story of how God seeks to share relationship with humankind and how that in turn defines our relationships with others.

And the New Testament expresses God's ultimate act of relationship, in the coming of Jesus, the son of God, to live as one of us, to draw us into God's fellowship and God's family by dealing with our sins, the very things that isolate us from God, on the cross.

The Church that forms in the generations after the time of Jesus is to be defined by the quality of our relations to one another. One of the early writers of Romans times quotes a popular comment made of the church – "See how these Christians love one another"

The Christian faith, as Diana Butler Bass points out, is not simply a statement of beliefs but rather a way of living that is based around our connectedness to God, our connectedness to one another, and how that affects the way we treat the people around us.

In these current times how does our church reflect that call to relationship? How do we as Christians live that kind of relationship with God and with the people around us? What are the things that you can do to grow your relationship with God? What might you do to allow your faith to grow your relationships with others in the church and with those outside the church?

PRAYER

God who is one and three
Father, Son and Spirit In perfect relationship;
God who is ever reaching out,
Ever welcoming, ever forgiving;
God, with arms open ready to welcome prodigal children home;
God, Our Father, Our Lord, Our Saviour,
We turn to you,
Sorry that we have let ourselves drift away from you
Eager to know your closeness,
Ever to receive your blessing.
Make us aware of your company now and each day.

Remind us to that we do not live isolated from others,
We are called to be a people of fellowship,
A people of relationship,
Help us to play our part in making your church family a welcoming place.
Help us to be builders and menders of relationships,
And through the people that we are,
The way we treat each other,
The care we offer, may others see your love shining through
In Jesus name, Amen

