

Reflections for June 14th - 1st Sunday after Trinity

God is close at hand

In three of the four gospels we find the story of Jesus sending out his disciples to proclaim his message, and to do the same things that they have seen him do.

We see this in today's reading from Matthew's gospel (in chapter 10 verses 1 to 8), when Jesus sums up the message that they are to pass on in these words:

The kingdom of heaven has come near (verse 7)

This was the same message that Jesus had received from the preaching of John the Baptist (see Matthew chapter 3 verse 1), and then took up himself as he began his public ministry (see Matthew chapter 4 verse 17). Now it is being passed on again, for his disciples to share as they are sent out in his service.

The 'kingdom of God' means the place where life is lived in God's presence, according to God's will and purpose for his people and his creation. And, at this time when we are not able to gather in our church buildings, it is good to remember that God is present everywhere, and may be discovered anywhere – not just in those places that we may think of as special or holy.

The good news is that God's presence, and God's new way, is always close at hand – like something that is so close that you could reach out and touch it. This means that there is an opportunity for us now, wherever we are, to recognise the presence of God, and make a fresh start to live life anew, as God intended.

This message of Jesus, that he shared with his disciples, has now been passed on to us, and it is true for every time, and every place, and every person. The kingdom of God has come near – it is close at hand.

Revd John Waller

Lord God,
you have declared that your kingdom is among us.
Open our ears to hear it,
our hands to serve it,
our hearts to hold it.
This we pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.