

Sunday 4th February 2024 (All-stage worship)

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God is love, let us adore God by sharing God's love.

God is ever present, around us and within us, we worship together in God.

Introduction

When you go to church or to a meeting how do you decide where to sit? If you have never been to that place before maybe you asked a question, or maybe you were asked a question before you decided. Questions are a part of our everyday life and a part of journey through life, questions lead us to discover more.

What? Who? When? How? Where? Why?

Once we start to ask questions we notice more.

In conversation we may discover things we have in common with other people.

According to the bible the first question asked was by the serpent – 'did God say you shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'

The second was God asking Adam and Eve, where are you?

Questions open up our imagination. I wonder if, what would happen if.

Reading Jeremiah 37:6 – 38:13 ([The Message](#))

Sometimes when we are on a journey things don't go as planned and our journey to God is no different. Jeremiah found himself in a well, he must have had a lot of questions but he was rescued and he carried on sharing God's message.

Where are the most questions in the Bible to be found? In Job chapters 38-42

Reading Job 38:22-38 ([Contemporary English Version](#))

The story of Job seeks to answer some of the big questions about suffering in the world.

Job is a good man but some really bad things happen to him and some of his friends suggest it must be his fault, he must have done something really bad and God is punishing him. However, Job knows he is innocent and so he is really puzzled by what has happened and he asks God lots of questions. God does not seem to answer but instead asks Job lots of questions, questions which remind him how little he really knows.

Now the story of Job was written a long time ago, and the questions we hear God ask reflect what humans knew about the world at that time. They might be very different if the story was written today.

When we read the bible we need to ask questions to discover what it means for us today. We are often puzzled by what we read in the bible. Sometimes we cannot see the bigger picture, sometimes things do not make sense at the time. Imagine the story of Mary and Joseph

- Why did Mary and Joseph find no room at the inn?
- What difference would it have made if they had?
- If it was to fulfil some prophecy why didn't they go straight to the stable?
- Mary and Joseph must have been quite desperate, why did God put them through that agony?

That last question is important and we need to remember that we are reading a story which only appears in one version of the story of Jesus (Luke). Throughout his trials Job remained faithful and trusting in God. When things go wrong it is tempting to want to blame someone and yet very often things just happen. When we step back and look at the bigger picture we see how things are connected and through asking questions (What? Who? When? How? Where? Why?) we can discover more about God.

When we agree to follow Jesus and trust God what happens will not always make sense to us, but we believe God loves us and wants the best for us and so if we keep following the way of Jesus and loving each other we will eventually find ourselves in the right place. God does not punish us, but circumstances, our own actions and the actions of others can send us of course now and again, but if we remain strong and keep journeying with God we will be okay.

Prayer conversation – prayer often starts from a question, what do we want to say thank you for, but also what puzzles us or worries us. What are the questions you might ask of God this morning.

Write them down.

Reflect on the questions and imagine when and how God might answer them. What part might you play in being the answer to those questions?

Prayer

Help us to ask the questions that will make a difference in the world, examples. (How can I help? What does that mean? What does God want?)

Help us to ask the questions that will make a difference in our lives, examples (How can I help? What does that mean? What does God want?)