

Bible Readings: Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end  
Matthew 28.16-end

### **Introduction to the theme**

May I speak in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today is Trinity Sunday, traditionally the day when there is a pretty even split between two very distinct schools of thought in the preachers' world:

1. Making lots of references to how difficult it is to preach on the nature of the Trinity. Seriously, all sorts of jokes and excuses get shoehorned into the sermon and service.
2. Make no references whatsoever to any extra complications this week over any other week.

I hope I fall into the latter category...

I did make a joke on Thursday morning that it would be really handy if the general election resulted in a coalition as that would really help my sermon writing process...

Be careful what you wish for, eh?!

So I could bore you all with my thoughts on how our country's current political situation could take some hints from the perfect coalition that the Trinity is...

But I won't!

Instead, we'll think about the great commission that Jesus gave his disciples before he went back to heaven: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them, and teach them to obey Jesus' commands.

Simple, right?!

Discipleship, Mission, Evangelism, Bible Teaching. Four nice simple topics that we can cover this morning...

Or does this great commission seem like a huge responsibility?

One that even I, who did literally sign up for, sometimes thinks, "corr, did I really sign up for this?!"

That's why this passage we have just heard from Isaiah is working its way in to become one of my favourites.

Our next song that we'll be singing picks up some of the ideas from Isaiah, that even when we do feel faint, weary, powerless, exhausted at the size of the task, God is there to renew our strength and pick us up.

### **Sermon**

This week, I've had a few late nights, and I can't even blame them all on Isla!

On Thursday night obviously I was kept company by Dimbleby with his fly swatting, Vine with his green screen and Professor Curtice with his exit polls, but I was kept up last night by a bit of a crisis with my sermon writing.

I felt a little as the Israelites did in the second half of the Isaiah passage:

*"my way was hidden from the Lord"*

*"I was faint and weary".*

That may have been because it was midnight, but still!

My crisis was I couldn't work out the value of what I had to offer to you today.

I couldn't work out my value to anyone. Melodramatic I know, but it was late!

All of this made worse by how I had read and reread the Matthew passage this week.

"How am I supposed to serve God when I can't even get my head out of my..." ahem. Yes, exactly.

And then, an epiphany of sorts!

Fuelled by strong coffee and a wife returning home from work and giving me a good talking to, suddenly those words that Isaiah uses to drag the Israelites out of their malaise did the same to me these thousands of years later.

Isaiah reminds us that God intimately knows the exact details of every aspect of creation.

Literally:

- the volume of water on our planet
- the distances between the stars
- the mass of the mountains

All of those big – well, infinite and uncountable to us – numbers are simple and knowable to Him.

And of course, God didn't need advice for this; He didn't need to be told what to do.

He knew exactly the way to make the universe just so; so that it works.

So that life can be sustained here.

So that life can flourish here.

So that *we* can live and thrive.

This knowledge that an inconceivable God created the unfathomably enormous universe and all that is in it could be disheartening, but I think the second part of the reading instead reassures us:

*"He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless."*

When we wait upon the Lord, we will have our strength renewed, and we will soar like eagles.

Because our Lord does not grow weary.

He is our strength if we but trust in Him.

Which brings me back to the instruction from Jesus.

What a task, make disciples of all nations.

Can you imagine how the 11 guys stood there must have felt?

“How are we supposed to achieve this, to go out and conquer the world for Jesus?” They may well have been thinking.

By remembering those words of Isaiah about the nature of God, that’s how.

And by paying attention to Jesus’ words:

*“baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”*

This trinity, this team, this communion.

God’s love led him to create all of everything in the universe, and send his son to redeem it all.

Jesus’ grace allowed him to follow the way of the Father, even when it led him to the cross.

The Holy Spirit offers to us that communion that there is between the three members of the Trinity, the absolute love of God.

The communion of this Trinity demonstrates unity, and so this must be our aim in our lives and church.

Note, not indistinguishable, but inseparable.

If this is our aim, and we try to demonstrate God’s love in our lives in all that we do and say, then the task of making disciples of all nations will be achievable.

### **Summing Up**

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God.

The creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint nor does He grow weary.

He gives power to the faint.

He strengthens the powerless.

He will renew the strength of those who wait on Him.

And He sent His Son to this earth, with all of His power and authority.

To show us the way to Him.

To tell us how to live our lives for the best.

To live His life as our example.

And that Son left us a task:

To go out to all the world to be witnesses to this Good News, and invite everyone to be a part of this movement.

And He sent his Spirit to be with us, always.

To give us the skills we need to achieve this goal, and to be a constant reminder of His love.

This is the reassurance I glean from these two readings, and I pray you do too.

There are so many uncertainties in our world: locally, nationally, worldwide.

But even so, if we strive to have communion with each other and with God, and we try our hardest to demonstrate God's love for the world in our lives, then God will lift us up and strengthen us; because he doesn't tire.