

Aware of God

7 5 17

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above.

Our text may be found in the First Epistle of Peter, chapter 2 and verse 19:

‘ . . . being aware of God . . . ’

When you read the Bible or listen to the Bible being read, do verses ever grab your attention as if they are leaping off the page and saying to you “Think about me” ? For me, last week, it was the opening of Psalm 116 ‘I love the Lord’. Today, it is part of the opening verse of our epistle ‘ . . . being aware of God . . . ’

So I guess the question I should ask you this morning is ‘Are you ? Are you aware of God and, if you are, how are you made aware of Him ?’

Well, if you weren’t God-aware in the first place, then why would you be here in church today ? Why bother to come here on a Sunday morning – and some of you do travel long distances to be part of our weekly worship – if you weren’t aware of God ? If God truly exists and if you are truly aware of him as an active presence in your life, then what could be more natural, more appropriate, than to come here

on a Sunday morning to be with other Christians and to take part in a service at which God is the centre ?

So if I can assume that we are all to a greater or lesser extent God-aware, then my question is how does coming to church connect us to God, help us to be more aware of him ? Well our Sunday Eucharist, this service of Holy Communion, is divided into two halves: the ministry of the word and the ministry of the sacrament. In the first half, it is the word of God that connects us with God: readings from Bible – two from the Old Testament including a psalm; two from the New Testament including the gospel. And, of course, there is this sermon. By hearing the word of God and hearing someone explaining the Word of God, God can speak to us. In the second half, it is the sacrament of bread and wine, the body and blood of God, that connects us with him. They are reminders of God's love for us, of what he is prepared to do for us, through which we are being spiritually fed by him.

But not only through the worship are we being connected to God but it is also through fellowship. It is by being with others that we are strengthened. From the moment we come through the door with the welcome from the sidesmen to the time we leave after a cup of coffee and a biscuit, there is the possibility of meeting up with like-minded folk who can be there for us when we need them. Love of God is best expressed through love of others even as we love ourselves.

But it's not only in a busy church on Sunday that we can be connected, made God-aware it is also by coming into church during the week, coming through the

door into this special place of peace and silence, of stillness and prayer, that is open seven days a week for eight hours a day in summer and for six hours a day in winter. It is a chance to sit down be still, perhaps light a candle and say a prayer. From the many comments in our visitors' book, people do appreciate what we are offering them – a place in which to be still and God-aware.

Of course, there are many way of being connected to God, of being God-aware and I'd be interested to hear how and where you feel his presence with you. But let me end by thanking God that through His Son Jesus Christ and by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, God our Father is and can be a present fact of our daily lives.

I have spoken in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

Preached at the Eucharist

St Bartholomew's, Dinard

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G: Sermons 35 : Aware of God

