

Trinity 2

I stand here in need of God's mercy and grace. May I speak in the name of the God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today the church remembers St Peter and St Paul. Both of these people were key in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ building up the early Church. And both of these people could easily be considered questionable choices.

Peter was one of the very early followers of Jesus and from Pentecost onwards he was the leader of the church in Jerusalem. A huge responsibility and one for which he eventually paid with his life. But Peter was also someone who rather often spoke and acted before thinking, which could land him and others in trouble. Peter was by no means well-polished and he often would not listen to wise advice or guidance, even from Jesus.

Peter was also passionate and willing to give everything for what he believed in. Peter, more than anyone else was willing to trust and risk everything for Jesus, as his stepping out of a boat and walking on water towards Jesus in the middle of a storm shows. Peter was a human being with strengths and weaknesses, just like us. But he was exactly the right person to be the rock on which Jesus built the church. Not because he was perfect, but because he was willing to trust Jesus Christ and risk it all to share with all whom he met the good news of Christ.

And if people have had doubts about Peter as the rock on which Christ was to build the Church, then the calling of Paul was sheer insanity. Before Paul became Paul, he was Saul. He had not been a follower of Jesus

during his earthly ministry and once this faith in Jesus as the Son of God and Saviour started to spread, he was at the forefront of those who were more than a little worried about this new sect springing up.

Saul was present and supportive when St Stephen was stoned to death and became the first follower of Christ to die for his faith. Saul then organised the raiding and throwing in prison of Christians all around Jerusalem and his passionate hatred of Christians had him even appeal to the religious leaders for permission to go to Damascus and pursue the Christian community there. So it really feels like an unrealistic stretch to consider Saul as the ideal person to be sharing the faith in Jesus Christ far beyond the boundaries of Jerusalem and Galilea.

Yet on his way to Damascus, Saul encounters Jesus in a vision and he becomes Paul, the person called to share the good news of Jesus beyond the Jewish people. And that was the beginning of the Church becoming a global community, united as the one Body of Christ.

Peter and Paul were questionable choices. Both were very human, they had their strengths, but they also had plenty of very human weaknesses, just like us. They were not the obvious best choices, but when God called them to trust and step into the unknown, they did and they served God to the best of their abilities.

And since Peter and Paul many more people have responded to God's call to trust and step into the unknown, serving God to the best of their abilities. None of them perfect, very many of them like Peter and Paul quite questionable choices. And the way people serve God also greatly varies. People share God's love with their neighbours, their families,

people share the good news of Jesus Christ by getting involved in various ways in their local church, or by fighting for more justice and equity, by stepping out of their comfort zone and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with a community they did not know before, by faithfully praying for people and the world day by day, by helping out at the local food-bank or by raising children with dedication and care. Again and again God calls people to share the love and grace of the good news about Christ with others. And none of the people called are perfect, just like Peter and Paul were very far from perfect. But they are willing to trust and step into the unknown, serving God to the best of their abilities.

This weekend in our diocese and all around the world, many people are being ordained as deacons and priests and the reason this happens always around this time of year, is because we remember the willingness of Peter and Paul to trust and step into the unknown, serving God to the best of their abilities. Some of us, God might be calling into ordained ministry, but all of us God is calling to share the good news of Christ in one form or another. How might God be calling you and are you willing to trust and step into the unknown, serving God to the best of your abilities?

Amen.