

Trinity 12 2026

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

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.

Peter means rock. When Jesus called Simon to follow him, he gave him the name Peter. He became one of the twelve disciples following Jesus closely during his public ministry. Now he is being singled out as the one, who will lead and carry great responsibility for the church that will grow out of Jesus' followers, once he returns to God the Father. That is a huge task and a massive responsibility. Peter must have been an exceptional human being of great wisdom, extensive education, and unquestionable character. Right?

Nothing could be further from the truth. Peter regularly spoke before he thought which got him into trouble. Peter had only the most basic education, being a fisherman from a working-class background. Peter was a hothead, he's the one who cuts off the ear of a servant present at Jesus' arrest in the garden of Gethsemane.

Peter was a far cry from a perfect human. Yet God called him, and he took on the great responsibility of leading and guiding the emerging church after Jesus' ascension. Having learned much from his time with Jesus, humbled by his own failure to acknowledge Jesus, when he was faced with execution, Peter became a well-respected leader of the early church. That doesn't mean he never made mistakes again, we can read in the bible about a couple more times when he is challenged for mishandling things, but we also get a sense of a person willing to listen, apologise and change. Peter, having learned much from Jesus, and guided and enabled by the Holy Spirit, indeed became the rock on which Jesus built his church.

Peter did not look like an ideal choice, he was a flawed human being, yet

Jesus saw something in Peter: Peter repeatedly shows his willingness to follow Jesus. Peter recognises Jesus as the Messiah, the saviour God promised, to bring about God's Kingdom of peace and justice. Peter does not hesitate to go all in to follow Jesus. Peter makes plenty of mistakes and ignores warnings, but when he realises he has made a mistake he owns up to it. Peter was not a perfect human being, just like us. Yet Jesus saw potential and willingness in Peter and that is why he singles him out in this way.

God had a very specific calling for Peter, and his willingness to serve God to the best of his abilities is part of the reason we are gathered as a church here today. Not because Peter was perfect, but because he was willing to offer his gifts and work on his flaws in a way that would serve God and the people he encountered along the way.

I wonder, given that Peter was so obviously flawed, if he ever heard others say, that he wasn't good enough. There probably were one or two people around who thought they could do a better job at being 'the rock on which Jesus builds his church'. There were certainly times when he thought he did not measure up and Jesus would send him away, having finally realised that he just wasn't good enough. But God continued to work with and through the flawed human being Peter was.

Do you ever wonder if you are good enough? Do you ever think that God definitely wouldn't want to get you involved in God's great and wonderful work? Maybe you have heard other people point out reasons why you are not good enough, why you are not the kind of person God would work with and through. Maybe like Peter, you are flawed, not quite the right person. Maybe you worry you are too young or too old to be of any use to God. Maybe you worry that your gender or sexuality mean God would not call you in such a way. Maybe you are worried about the limitations of your body, that God could not work with and through you because your body is

different from others. Maybe you fear that your culture, your language and ethnicity mean God is unlikely to call you. Maybe you are neuro-diverse and see and experience the world in a different way to most, and so God couldn't possibly work with and through you. Maybe you worry that you do not have enough education, don't know enough about the bible or are simply the kind of person who never knows the right thing to say. Maybe there is something in your past you are ashamed of, maybe you are deeply aware of a particular weakness. None of us are perfect. Some of us likely have been told one way or another that we are not good enough, that we are not the right kind of person.

Yet Peter's life shows us, that God is willing and able to work with and through us, even if we have flaws and others might think we are less than ideal candidates. The church, Christ's Body, is made up of many members, and each brings its own particular gift. Each of us is needed and wanted. If we are willing, God has wonderful and surprising ways to work with and through each of us. How might God be calling you to serve within Christ's Body?

Amen.