

Parish Eucharist, Trinity 9

28 July 2024

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Enough is enough – a curious phrase. Usually taken to mean, well that's it, you've crossed the line, time for a change, let's sort this out once and for all. But maybe a different spin on 'enough is enough' instead of thinking that things have come to a head, perhaps it can bring us a sense of peace and contentment, a new way of being in the world which is built on trust not anxiety and competitiveness with our neighbour. Because we hear in the story of the feeding of the 5000 that in God we have enough, and that is enough, we don't need more than enough. God enough is enough.

Modern Humanity being has been around for around 160 – 200, 000 years, google tells me that there's been around 117 billion of us on the planet of earth during that time, every year we add millions onto that number. We are one species and there are around 8.7 million other species on the planet. I'd say it's difficult to say that is not enough species. Apparently, there are around 390,000 known species of plants. That's probably enough. We are one planet, the number of other planets that exist is so vast, it's impossible to know. Our galaxy contains around 200 billion stars, and our galaxy is probably one of around 300 trillion galaxies in the universe. That's probably Enough – God's enough is enough

One of the major problems in the world is that we don't believe there is enough – we believe that the world is lacking. A scarcity of resources and a scarcity in our relations. We don't have enough to satisfy, and our relationships are not fulfilling because of this. hold onto it, hoard it. Put aside more than you need, so that if you do need it, it will be there. Because it might not be enough. This morning when we hear the familiar story of feeding the 5000, we are being reminded that in feeding the hungry crowds he is healing the wounds that 'not enough' mentality brings by performing this sign and promise of God's abundance, that God has provided.

In the genesis creation story God sets forth a world of abundance, the motion of the world is in the calling forth plants and fish and birds and animals – and the promise of continued abundance by commanding them to "increase and multiply". In the Old Testament we hear through slavery in Egypt under Pharaoh that God's people internalise a different story - the narrative that there is not enough. They cry out in the wilderness, they want to go back to Egypt, they don't want to trust Moses the prophet, who says he is leading them into a land of abundance, they lose the trust that God is enough. When suddenly a fine flaky substance comes down and overturns their conviction about scarcity and cancels their anxiety about hunger. The gift of

bread transforms the wilderness. Jesus knows all about this story of abundance and manna from heaven. And in his ministry addressed the wounds that had come again in the thinking that the earth lack enough resources.

Jesus went around to people suffering from the results of this scarcity thinking – of health, of food, of acceptance, of power, of understanding – and replaced it with a gift of abundance. Jesus knows the story of Manna in heaven, knows that Moses led the people out of scarcity. He also remembers the songs his mother sung. “he has filled the hungry with good things” (Luke 1:53)) So Jesus remembered the songs of mother Mary– songs of God’s generosity toward those in need. Jesus is well-schooled in the transformative generosity of God

These stories can help us remember and also to choose to put our faith in a God who provides enough for us. A generous God who loves us and in his creation has provided enough for us and our neighbour. There is enough to go around. We can lay our anxiety aside in the wonderful promise of God’s abundance and declare that to a world who are stuck in a mindset that enough isn’t enough. This is one of the many reasons we join to share communion with one another. We need to remember. In the feeding of the 5000 Jesus takes bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it. Jesus puts into practice the generosity of the creator.

The disciples are sceptical that Jesus has enough to provide for the crowds. As we come to celebrate communion and share bread and wine, we are reminded that God set in motion in Creation and an abundance to be shared and that through Christ’s life, death and resurrection there is enough for our salvation and the salvation of our neighbour, as we move from lack to the abundance of the Kingdom. This reminds us that we don’t need to try to control and compete to have enough. God has provided, so this morning we remember in the breaking of bread, that God is enough – we don’t need to scramble and frantically hoarde because we are anxious and restless. God’s abundance in Christ is enough for us this morning

This offers us a beautiful new way to share communion together but also how we live our lives on Monday morning.

In the sure hope that enough is enough.