

## Christ Church Freemantle Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Fourth Sunday of Lent

As wonderful as it is to be able to worship each week virtually, and all praise to Craig and those involved in delivering the zoom service, I think we all miss gathering together as a faith community.

As a witnessing community, we have our roots in Scripture. God does not expect individuals to make a difference for Him on their own. He wants us to work in teams. In Genesis, the Creation mandate is given to both the man and the woman together.

The first thing Jesus did in his public ministry was to assemble a community of disciples. When he taught them how to “do mission” he sent them out, not as individuals, but in pairs. Karl Barth, the famous Swiss theologian, said that Jesus would not be who he is if he lacked community and if the community lacked a missionary character.

Paul followed Jesus’ example by travelling with a team on his missionary journeys. As the teams grew in size, members joined, or frequently left to carry the good news in pairs. Silas and Timothy in Acts 19.22, or Timothy and Erastus in Acts 19.22 and possibly, Paul and Luke in Acts 20.6 demonstrate this.

God does mission through Community. He is three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who are also one. God is the divine “communion in mission”. Channelling salvation through communities is an expression of his fundamental character.

One day, hopefully, sooner rather than later, we shall be able to return each Sunday to bear witness as followers of the one, true God.



*Stephen Scott*