

# Sermon Notes

## 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017

### Being Church: Vision of a multi-cultural community



Summary of last week: Being the church means being a loving community that comforts those who are troubled with the comfort we have received from God.

#### Introduction

- WPBC has lots of cultures and nations worshipping together. Not something we as a church have particularly sought but something God has done amongst us.
- Last year on Sabbatical I read, prayed, and discovered more about what it means to be a multi-cultural church. Share some of that this morning.

Background: New Testament church and the surrounding community was multi-cultural.

1. Middle East had lots of different backgrounds – Greeks, Ethiopians (East Africa), North Africans, Jews, and a few Northern Europeans.
2. Gospels & Acts of the Apostles contain examples of stories of people from different nations & cultures, e.g. Magi from the East, Jesus (Jew) & Samaritan woman, Peter & Roman Centurion.
3. Jesus brings different cultures together – Ephesians 2:13-15. Through the cross Jesus brought peace and united us together.

Vision of being multi-cultural church is Revelation 7:9-10.

- John has a vision of the climax of history when all the nations of the world come together in worship.
- God's plan is to unite and bring together all cultures and nations worshipping and being the church.

What does it mean for us here?

- Getting to know people of other cultures – two-way process. E.g. practical everyday life, what Jesus means to us, and trying each other's food.
- Understanding different cultural norms – e.g. African view of time.
- Open to try different ways of praying.
- What can you do?

#### Your notes

*Written by Rev. Lucy Wright, October 2017.*