

# Sermon Notes

## 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### Being Church: Part of the ongoing story of God



Summary of last week: The New Testament gives us a framework for discipleship that is done together with others. Ephesians 4:17-32 talks about speaking truth and love to each other in community which we can do when we are committed to each other – this is expressed in this church through membership.

#### Introduction

- Looked at being church series and focused on WPBC – using spiritual gifts and committing to the family.
  - Today we are going to look at us being part of the universal Church of God.
  - Baptism commit to ‘serve Christ in the church and in the world.’ Not just here at WPBC but wherever God sends us.
  - We are going to look at being united with other churches & united in a rich history that encourages us in faith.
1. United with Christ’s Church – spiritually and practically.
    - Ephesians 4:4-6 a call to unity... ‘One body, one spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.’
    - Spiritually, Jesus holds us all together in our differences.
    - Jesus is Lord of the Church universal – Ephesians 1:22-23.
    - Pete Greg’s call for churches in 2016 to learn together, love each other, and pray together.
    - Practical examples working together – minister level with CTWP. Christmas Journey – Grace Church & Insight Schools Worker. Stoneleigh BC – HBC young leaders etc.
    - Pray, encourage, and any practical ideas do share with me & leadership team.

2. United with Christ’s church in the past as an encouragement in our faith as we ‘be church.’
  - Hebrews 11:1-3 – people of faith that spur us on, encourage us to keep going.
  - True for biblical characters but also people of faith in church history – example John Bunyan and Pilgrim’s Progress which strengthens our faith in difficult times.
  - We are the church here, we are part of the Church universal, and we are united to the faithful that gone before that strengthen us to be the church here and now.

#### Your notes

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