**Ps 86:1-7, Luke 5:27-32 : St Piran’s award service : 8 March 2025**

I want to ask you a question….How much is enough?

Enough what, you say.

Well….enough. How much is enough?

I ask that question because we are surrounded by a thousand voices telling us that there isn’t enough; not enough money for the NHS or education or defence or aid. Not enough economic growth or investment. There aren’t enough people with the right skills. There’s not enough time to do what needs to be done. There aren’t enough solutions, or options or choices. There’s just never enough.

And it’s personal too. Every advert tells us that we’ll never be cool enough, smart enough or clever enough until we buy the latest car or the newest phone, or until we go on that holiday or wear those clothes.

And deeper even than that, many of us carry around the feeling that we’re not quite enough; perhaps we still hear the voice of the teacher who once said ‘that’s not good enough’; or a parent who said, ‘you’re not trying hard enough’. And sometimes the church has done the same thing, and taught that until we do more, pray more or give more, we’ll never be enough for God.

So, how much is enough?

Because when we live with a constant sense that there isn’t enough, we begin to believe it. We begin to behave as if the world is like a cake, so that if you each get a slice, there’s less and less chance that I’ll get one too. As if everything is limited and it’ll all run out soon - and then, of course, we’re in trouble. Because then, I’m going to be determined to get my slice before you get yours.

A life lived as if there’s never enough is going to be a conflictual life.

And if there’s never quite enough, chances are we’ll live in a constant state of anxiety that we might be about to miss out, or lose what little there is, or not get what we need.

A life lived as if there’s never enough is going to be an anxious life.

And if that’s how life feels, as if it’s a cake without enough slices to go round, then it’s pretty tempting to divide the world up into the people who deserve cake, and those who don’t.

A life lived as if there’s never enough, is likely to divide people into good and bad, right and wrong, friends and enemies.

Does any of that sound familiar? Do any of you recognise a world in which there is conflict, anxiety and division?

Well I want to tell you that the God I know, and the God who invites all of us to follow him, is a God of abundance and not deficit; a God of plenty, for whom there is always enough - and more.

It’s what every book of the bible tells us - that God is enough.

That message is summed up in the words of the psalm we just heard - *‘You O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.’* God is **abounding** in love.

And abounding, ‘abundance’, ‘abundant’ could also be translated ‘*overflowing’*  or ‘*inexhaustible*’ or ‘*lavish*’. This isn’t ‘nearly enough’ or ‘just about enough’, this is way more than enough - enough for you and me, and every you and every me, to have all we need, with leftovers to spare. It’s the story of the manna in the desert, the feeding of the five thousand, the miraculous catch of fish - it’s what we believe; that God gives enough; that God gives more than enough. That God is enough.

And we know what that’s like - you know what that’s like.

Because, while there are things in this world which are like the cake - the more I have, the less you get, the most important things; the things that make life worth living and give meaning, don’t work like that at all.

Think of beauty, or kindness. Think of generosity or compassion. Think of love. These things don’t run out. When someone creates a glorious piece of art, or a song that takes your breath away, looking at it or listening to it doesn’t diminish what’s left of the piece of art or the song for someone else to enjoy. Beauty is for everyone and it never runs out.

And the same is true of generosity; if you’re generous to me in some way, it adds to the overall quantity of generosity in the world and, chances are, it prompts more generosity in me.

When my kids were small there was a craze at their schools for Herman. Herman came in a jam jar, that was passed on by a friend and he came with instructions. The instructions said to keep him warm, and to add flour and water every few days. And then, after 10 days - by which time Herman had been bubbling away and growing rapidly, you put Herman in a tin and baked him into a beautiful cake. Because Herman was a starter dough.

But before baking him, you had to do something important. You had to remove some of the newly grown dough, put it in a new jam jar, copy out the instructions and give the new Herman to another friend. Herman was a friendship cake, and the more you made, the more there was for everyone else. There was always enough Herman to go round.

And the things that matter most in life are like that. There’s always enough to go round.

And it’s not surprising that the things that matter never run out, because these things - beauty, generosity, compassion, love - these are the characteristics of God; these are each descriptions of who he is. God is abundant in steadfast love, says the psalmist … and he’s also abundant in beauty, grace, compassion and generosity.

How much is enough? God is enough.

Which means that if someone is doing something that is good, or godly; if someone is acting generously or compassionately; if someone is sharing love, kindness or mercy - that’s enough. Because those things won’t ever run out.

And I think you all know that. In fact I know you know that, because you’re here. Because the award that you are about to receive is a recognition that you, in different ways, are people who have chosen to give to the world; you have shared who you are and what you have with those who need you; you have chosen to live from the abundance of God’s goodness, rather than the scarcity that the world tells us we are surrounded by.

To wear the cross of St Piran is to declare that there is enough; that God is enough and that you want to live from his abundance.

When St Piran found himself in the seas at the foot of an Irish cliff with a millstone next to him, he’d have been forgiven for thinking that he didn’t have enough. That he didn’t have enough to be safe, to get home or to survive. But here we are, 1500 years later, each of us inheritors of the faith that he brought to Cornwall. Because it turned out that what he had was enough.

It turns out that God is enough.

So I pray that the cross you will wear is a reminder and a call, to live from God's abundance of enough.

Amen