

All Age Service – 12th March 2017

You must be born again... and Jn.3:16

Need – pack of raisins, each person to have been given one as they come in.

I have a talk full of mind-bending things today. Things that are mind-bendingly BIG.

First of all, I need you to do something small. Take the raisin you were given at the beginning of the service, and put it in the palm of your hand.

Now, give me some words for things that are BIG.

Big. Huge. Enormous. Vast. Humungous. Ginormous.

Here's a thought.

Imagine a grain of sand on a beach.

Imagine how many grains of sand go up to make that one beach.

Now imagine all the beaches of the world, and all the grains that make them up.

If you can imagine that many grains, scientists say you are getting somewhere close to the number of planets that exist – and that's in the universe we know about. There might be *more*.

Now that's *big*. Ginormous doesn't *begin* to cover that.

Now here's an even more mind-bending thing.

God holds all of that as if it was one tiny raisin in his hand.

All things. Everything. All those gazillion of planets. All those solar systems and galaxies. All like one tiny raisin to Him.

God is so big that it's useless even trying to think about how big he is. Your brain cannot cope.

But here's an even more amazing thing:

The Bible says God loves the world. Loves this little planet, loves the people on it, loves you and me.

Loves it so much, loves us so much, that from all his unimaginable Bigness, he made himself small – small enough to be one of us, to be Jesus, to live with us and to die with us.

And here is the most mind bending thing of them all:

He did all that so He could put his bigness inside us.

You see, without him we are very small, very weak, and if we're honest very frightened. Our lives are very little, and very short, and the world is so big and time is so long. If you're a human being, it's very easy to feel small and frightened – and most of us do, most of the time. Even grown ups. Especially grown ups, because they've had time to realise how small they are.

But what God does, in Jesus, is to put his bigness inside us.

If you're with Jesus, then you know you've got a bigger life inside your small one.

You know that though you might be small and weak and frightened *now*, now is not the most true thing about you.

You know that in fact, *now* you're just a seed. A seed packed with bigness you can hardly even imagine, a seed which one day is going to flower, amazingly.

You know that one day, you will be a more amazing, more astonishing, more joyful, more happy, bigger *you* than you can possibly imagine.

And that doesn't happen because you're very good, or very clever, or come to church, or think that the right things. At one level, none of that matters very much.

What we are talking about is so astonishing, so wonderful, so just plain BIG, that there is nothing you could possibly begin to do to earn it or qualify for it. You can't even begin to *deserve* this. No more than you *deserved* to be born in the first place. Indeed, it's a bit like being born... again. It just *happens*.

It just happens. It happens when you begin to know Jesus of Nazareth, and ask him to fill your life.

It happens, Raina and Tallis, when you get christened.

It goes on happening every time you pray, every time you come here for a blessing or communion.

It just happens, and it will go on happening until one day, you become what God wants to make you: great, big, perfect Goodness, Love, and Joy.

That's what being a Christian is. Being on that journey. That's why we're here.

So let us stand, and proclaim our faith in the words of the creed:

