

God in a Box?

John 1:14

Indescribable . . . uncontainable . . . all-powerful . . . untameable.

All fitting words to describe the God who created the universe.

Indescribable . . . uncontainable . . . all-powerful . . . untameable.

Perhaps you've had the experience of standing amongst the Swiss Alps . . . or the Rockies . . . or the Himalayas and being profoundly affected by the grandeur of the mountains . . . perhaps not being able to put into words what you're seeing . . . or feeling. Perhaps you had a sense of God in those places . . . a sense of the God we just described as indescribable!

Perhaps you've had the experience of a clear winter's night in Central Australia . . . or the Flinders Ranges . . . and you've lain awake for hours looking at the blanket of stars above you and you've understood for the first time why it's called the Milky Way. Perhaps you had a sense of God in that place . . . a sense of the God who places every one of the 200 billion trillion massive spheres of hydrogen and helium into space. And perhaps you said to yourself, "Wow!"

Indescribable . . . uncontainable . . . all-powerful . . . untameable.

When we have those sort of experiences . . . when we get that sense of God it certainly puts us in our place, doesn't it? And, the words of that song we just heard were right . . . God *is* indescribable . . . uncontainable . . . all-powerful . . . untameable . . . as much as we try we can't put God in a box.

And yet, this morning I have something in a box to show you . . . it's only small . . . but I reckon it will create more excitement than any pictures of majestic mountains . . . or any talk of the awesomeness of the universe. And, I reckon what is contained in this box will tell you more about God, and who God is, than any of those other amazing things.

This is Crumpet. He's a miniature Dachshund. He belongs to my son and his partner. And, the God who created the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates that push up the mighty Himalayas also created Dachshunds! And, yes, he's very cute!

Notice what happened when I brought Crumpet out of the box? He immediately created connection! He's affectionate and engaging and insistent . . . and if you've ever had a puppy you'll know they don't want to be on their own. A mountain can be grand and awe-inspiring and the Milky Way can be breath-taking and the words we use for the God who created them are: indescribable . . . uncontainable . . . all-powerful . . . untameable. But, what words should we use to describe the God who makes puppies? Perhaps, joyful, loveable, playful, engaging, faithful? You wouldn't have noticed but when I was talking about mountains and stars you looked thoughtful, but when I brought our Crumpet, you smiled!

This is how God wants it to be with us. To have connection. To have engagement. To be personable. To have relationship.

But, as cute as Crumpet was there's an even better example of the relationship God wants, and that's the human relationship . . . the relationship between a parent and their child. I really only brought Crumpet along today because I couldn't convince a parent to let me put their baby in a box!

Parents, think about your children here today. Yes, they drive you up the wall sometimes . . . they don't do what they're told, they have minds of their own, but there's a bond there, isn't there? A bond that is hard to put into words. They're your flesh and blood. You will protect them and care for them and rejoice in their achievements. You will love them, and nurture them and even give your life for them if it came to that. Your heart would break if you were to lose them.

And, so it is with God. In fact, this is the most amazing, mind-blowing thing about God . . . yes the God who created the universe . . . that indescribable, uncontainable, all-powerful, untameable God, is the same God who wants to know each of your smiles . . . personally. This is a God who wants connection with us . . . and relationship with us . . . and engagement with us . . . even when we drive him up the wall . . . even when we don't do what we're told . . . even when we have minds of our own.

We too, each one of us is a creation of God. There's a bond there. A bond that's hard to put into words. But God will protect us and care for us and rejoice in our achievements. God loves us and nurtures us and he even gave his life for us . . . for that's what it came to. For his heart would break if he were to lose any one of us. So, in the person of Jesus, God became a human being . . . a human baby. The God who is bigger than the universe made himself small, for our sake. The God who is all-powerful made himself vulnerable, for our sake. The God who is untameable made himself loveable, for our sake.

He is an amazing God. And, if I had to describe our indescribable God, I would say, "God is like a puppy named Crumpet".

Amen.

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Pentecost 3, 2026 (School Service)