Sermon: **Why don’t you tear the sky apart and come down?** (Isaiah 64.1)

April 13 1970 – “Houston, we have a problem”.

[1] We have a problem

Global Warming, exploitation of hunted species, suspicion about science (not helped by “but wait, there’s more” adverts), those with power using it for their own ends (whether in politics or business)

All these are really symptoms of a bigger problem – human selfishness and sin.

It is easy to spot instances – look at newspapers, watch TV news, or any show, the whole point of Lotto.

It is also easy to become merely a grumpy old man, watching the sin of others, TEXT.

[2] We are part of the problem

The sad thing is that we too are sinful. Not necessarily in the old-style evangelist sense - dangling folk over the fires of hell for individual sin – this is not only manipulative, it is not accurate.
a) It suggests all our problems and sin are *completely dealt with on* *conversion*. It is only beginning…

We continue to make mistakes, inadvertent, deliberate, accidental or calculated. We ignore God’s impulses, and act on our own. We twist God’s rules to suit our take on lifestyle choices.

b) Also sin is in the fabric of *society*, not just individuals; we all share in this.

This could lead to despair, a sense that nothing can be done, so why bother?

[3] Good News - God sees the problem and wants to help us sort it out.

But God is not satisfied with how things are. God wants to sort this out, not stand by tut-tutting. TEXT?

God understands our problem – because he has become human in Jesus.

God has given us help not magic wand, TEXT, but through his Spirit, Christ’s example, death and resurrection brings hope and new life. And it all begins with Incarnation.

Yes, we have a problem, but that is not all we have. In Christ we have a solution too. Thanks be to God!