

Sunday Morning Worship at Brentwood, May 22, 2016

Trinity Sunday

Notes for the sermon on Reformed the Spirit

Ps 8 and John 16:12-15 – Sermon Text = John 16:14-15

*[The Spirit of truth] will glorify me
because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
All that the Father has is mine.
For this reason I said that he will take what is mine
and declare it to you.*

[Hymns = 286, 299, 300]

Key ideas = Brentwood bathroom art on Facebook – an surprising way for the Spirit to nourish souls to flourish – but that's the Spirit – surprising ways of constantly reforming us to more closely align us with the image of God – when we agree to partipate in God's mission, as a fellowship of the friends of Jesus, then we agree to be changed – to be reformed – to mature continually into the care-takers of creation God made us to be – we engage in this kind of growth through listening, learning, and leading



Sermon notes of Rev Dr Brian Fraser,
Minister with Brentwood Presbyterian Church, Burnaby, BC

People of Worthwhile Energy

Diane Ng, a friend from the Canadian Association of Professional Speakers, took a picture of the poster in our bathrooms and share it on Facebook – she suggested that it should be on the front door – wherever it is, this is the kind of reform that the Spirit is working in our lives – in everything we do here at Brentwood – with those who participate in this intentional Christian community and those who accept our invitation to use our space for their music and meetings – this space is a reminder to them that God created all of us with a worthwhile energy to be nourished to flourish in expressions of God's grace

Maturing in God's Grace - Being Reformed by the Spirit

That what is being affirmed in Ps 8 – God has given us glory and honour – with that energy and worth, we are to care to the creation that God has entrusted to us – if you read all of the encouragements and suggestions that Jesus makes in his teachings, that is the core of them – I am befriending you so you can be blessings

The gift of the Holy Spirit – God's power and purpose with us as we have learned it from Jesus Christ – works to continually cultivate the fruits of the Spirit within us and among us so that the creation with which we have been entrusted will be blessed – in that blessing, the Commonwealth of God is increased

This passage in John from the final teaching of Jesus with his disciples in the upper room prior to his arrest is filled with the idea that the Spirit will continue to reform them into the image of God after Jesus leaves this dimension of life with God – Jesus has not only declared/announced/proclaimed the true teaching of God's nature and desire – love and service – but he has embodied and enabled it for all of human kind – the Spirit will energize us all by taking this way of life and giving it to us – the Spirit will cultivate this way of life in all of us – those who become aware of those influences and accept the possibilities opened up by them will mature in grace until we see the love of God face-to-face in all of its fullness and joy

Listening, Learning and Leading

Story of George Leddingham – every Sunday want to be challenged to change according to the Gospel – true Presbyterian or Reformed spirit – George was 88 years old when he said that in a session meeting at West Point Grey Presbyterian Church – he understood what it meant to come to church expecting to be changed – to come to listen, to learn, then to go into the world to lead people to a better way of being together – that's how we spread blessing in the grace of Jesus Christ that the Spirit provokes and supports – that poster in our bathrooms is a good summary of the key points in the teaching of Jesus that he was trying to summarize for his disciples in that upper room in the midst of their fear and division – perhaps worth a look and a ponder – and a bit of delight in the ways our guests find it so inspiring – give thanks to the Spirit for working that kind of reform within us and through us – a new section in our order of service – 'A Brentwood Daily Prayer' – "Nourish the souls of all we encounter this week, O Lord, to flourish in your grace, and make us part of that nourishment."