

## ***Sunday Morning Worship at Brentwood, May 8, 2016***

### ***7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter***

#### **Notes for the sermon on *What's Jesus Up To?***

**Ps 97 and John 17:20-26 – Sermon Text = John 17:22**

***The glory that you have given me I have given to them,  
so that they may be one, as we are one.***

**[Hymns = 264, 267, 625]**

**Key ideas = this is part of Jesus' prayer for his disciples just prior to his betrayal – it reveals what Jesus is up to – he is the way God has chosen to revive his glory in humanity – that glory is God's energy of love that is restoring the creation to its original flow of flourishing – Jesus is making us part of that process of mending/healing this world**



#### **Reminders for the Journey**

John's story of the last supper differs from the other Gospels – it contains different details, different aspects of the conversation and worship that took place just prior to the final confrontation with the Jewish and Roman authorities – a confrontation those authorities were convinced would put an end to this rabble of rebels who were disturbing their idea of peace – there is a particular emphasis in the actions, especially the foot washing, and the teachings about how the disciples are loved by God in Jesus, the Christ – a love that suffers the worst imaginable so that God's glory is theirs

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

## **The Flow of God's Glory/Energy**

We've spoken before about how the Biblical words we normally translate 'glory' point to God's energy – God's energy of love – Karen Armstrong, in her *History of God*, talks about how we are transfigured, just like Jesus, by the divine energies of goodness, justice and love - that simple truth is the heart and soul of John's faith – it is this energy of God's love that brings repute and honour to God – not his coercive power, not his grandeur and loftiness – but the intimacy and tenderness of his love, a love that leads him to kneel and wash our stinking feet as a friend – so that we can enjoy each other's company and move forward refreshed

That's how the transforming power of God's energy flows into the world – through friends serving friends in love – from the most basic needs of daily living through the care-taking of the whole creation with which God has entrusted us – what Jesus is up to is providing us with a model for how this life is to be lived – how this energy is to be controlled and directed

## **The Guidance & Stabilizing Systems for God's Energy**

Jill and I had a wonderful time on our holidays – a week in Honolulu exploring Waikiki Beach and a week on the MS Noordam, sailing across the Pacific Ocean – a small village – 1900 passengers and 800 crew

I became good friends with Kim Davies, a marine historian who lives up on the Sunshine Coast – he talked about the guidance and stabilization systems on the Noordam – complex and effective – kept us on track and upright even in turbulent seas (which we didn't have to suffer on this trip)

Got me thinking again about the guidance and stabilization systems for the church in this turbulent world – the logo for the World Council of Church – a boat with the cross as its mast on a turbulent sea – with the affirmation that we are all one household in Christ



The guidance and stabilization systems = worship, learning, fellowship and service – the things that this congregation holds dear and does every week, so that you and those you nourish can be God's friends in the world

Making that happen for the sake of God's healing of creation is what Jesus is up to – and when he returns to God's dimension of reality, he leaves behind the Holy Spirit to ensure that God's glory/energy continues to flow for the world's flourishing.