

Sunday Morning Worship at Brentwood, July3, 2016

Notes for the sermon on We Are Sent in Community

Ps 66:1-9 and Luke 10:1-11 – Sermon Text = Luke 10:1

***After this the Lord appointed seventy others
And sent them on ahead of him in pairs
to every town and place where he himself intended to go.***

[Hymns = 534, 530, 556]



Key ideas – another story from Luke’s account of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem – anticipates the world mission of the church, begun in Luke’s account in Acts – by people who have been ‘sent’ – by God, with authority, to witness to God’s power and its impact, especially in and among those who respond in faith

Two thoughts this morning:

- 1) Sent as lovers of God and of what God loves – *Theophilus* – for whom gospel was written – in this section of Luke’s gospel especially, as Jesus faces directly into the consequences of his attitudes and behaviours, focus on cost of discipleship – challenges and rejection – judgement is not ours, but God’s – move on and prepare more ground, sow more seeds, care for more people – take up yet again the care of the creation with which we were entrusted at creation - imagination and ingenuity – eg = plastic houses
- 2) We are never alone – in community with God and others – this work is too demanding and, at times, discouraging to try it on your own – not just you and Jesus – a world-wide community, diverse and differently gifted, all sent to be channels of the power of God’s love flowing into a world desparate for atonement, peace, and dignity – lost one of the most eloquent witnesses to God’s elusive power in the face of evil that this generation has ever know – Elie Weisel – Liam Stack wrote this morning in the NYT that his words that ‘seared and soared’ – a reminder that any encounter with God in Jesus Christ judges and saves us – confronts us with our failures at the same time that it empowers us with our possibilities in friendship with Jesus Christ – that is the Christian journey – to be witnesses to, instruments of, partners with God who quilts our tattered lives into a rich blessing for the whole creation

Throughout the journey to ‘the heart of darkness’ that was Jerusalem in Jesus’ day, the community gathered together to eat, to pray, to learn, to be refreshed with God’s resilience – as we do this morning at this table, with Jesus still present in power as our host and friend

Sermon notes of Rev Dr Brian Fraser,
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