

Sunday Morning Worship at Brentwood, July 24, 2016

**Notes for the sermon on You Are My Beloved
preached at the baptism of Jeremy Dookie**

Ps 23 and Luke 3:21-22 – Sermon Text = Luke 3:22b

***And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased.”***

[Hymns = 428, 521, 648]

Key ideas



1. We have all, on behalf of the church of Jesus Christ, taken vows to nourish Jeremy and his family to flourish in the grace of Jesus Christ. Such vows of love and support are rare in our world.
2. What we, as church, have to offer in a world of fear and division is a space and a community where this child and his family, together with all others we encounter, will find **welcome**, **worth**, and **wisdom**.
3. We offer all of those gifts in the power and name of Jesus Christ, through whom God judged the world in love and saved it for his delight and our blessing.

Something happens in baptism that I don't get – it happens inside of us – it's invisible to the naked eye – I'm not even sure that it happens in the moment of baptism itself – I suspect this act done by God within the fellowship of the friends of Jesus (that's what the church, in essence, is) is simply an outward and visible sign of a grace that already exists within Jeremy – the grace of being created in the image of God – that grace belongs to all of us – and we need each other in order to nourish that grace to flourish

This world is filled with people and powers that have lost touch with the reality of being created in the image of God – I think being out of touch with the God revealed in Jesus Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit generates fear and division at every level of our lives – we lose the ability to stay resilient in the face of all the fears and divisions that bombard us from today's world – I don't think it is really possible to live the life of freedom envisioned by Paul in that Galatians that we remembered in Jeremy's baptism – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control – without the kind of support this congregation offered this morning on behalf of the whole church – we build the resilience to bless the world in Christian communities like this, one conversation after another

There is a nourishing flow to the life of this congregation that is worth remembering at this time – a flow of loving energy that can enfold and bear us all through the fears and divisions of our world – that can enable us to sow seeds of blessing wherever we go – that can surround and fill Jeremy with the strength he will need to use his gifts to bless this creation – that flow is from **welcome**, to **worth**, to **wisdom** – we're not perfect in living in that flow here at Brentwood – we need all the help we can get from people attracted to that possibility – so join us in that mission