

Sunday Morning Worship at St Aidan's, Nov 13, 2016

Notes for the sermon on Resilient in Our Faith

ATTITUDE

OPTIMISM

SOCIAL CONNECTION

WELCOME CHANGE

HUMOR

GRATITUDE

ACCEPT HELP

Ps 98 and Luke 21:5-19 Sermon Text = Luke 21:19

By your endurance you will gain your souls.

[Hymns = 712, 722, 248 and 476 in the *Book of Praise*]

Key Ideas

1. There's a whole bunch of fascinating stuff in this passage from Luke that we read this morning that I'm not going to touch on – my focus will be on soulful resilience – this whole section of Luke's gospel, from Jesus turning his face to Jerusalem to the resurrection – showing the disciples this kind of resilience - the endurance that nourishes not only our souls, but the souls of everyone within our circles of influence – that aspiration is what I read about this week in the notes from your visioning session in September – rich and robust ideas for how to co-create with Christ a flourishing future in New West through the work and witness of St. Aidan's – the rest of us in this emerging collaborating church network are keen to support you in that mission in any ways we can – about working together in ways that enhance our abilities to be blessings in our unique neighbourhoods with their unique needs – through prayer, imagination, and contribution
2. I believe that God, in Jesus Christ, through the inspiration and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, is calling us to a renewed resilience in the deepest dimensions of our souls – let me say a bit about how I understand soul – Daniel J Seigel in *Mindsight* – instinct, emotion and intellect – when in sync and supporting each other = wisdom – for the Judeo/Christian traditions, that wisdom focuses our attention on SHALOM – a vision of cosmic flourishing – justice, peace, and joy – this is the kind of 'safe harbour' that I hear you wanting to create here at St. Aidan's – this is the kind of 'lighthouse' I hear you wanting to be here at St. Aidan's – all to meet the needs of your neighbours in resilient and renewing ways – what a great way to be church here and now! – what a great way to build the church of Jesus Christ over the next 20 years and beyond!
3. To do this, you will need God's gift of resilience – what our passage promises as endurance – the Greek word is *hypomene* – it points to patience in waiting for God to reveal more – not inactivity, mind you – but the resilience of our conviction that God is acting in love for our wellbeing and we can act with the Trinity to be blessings in our circles of influence – when Luke encourages endurance, its action that produces the fruits of the Spirit in Gal 5:22-23 - on the insert, you will find my 'Christianization' of the APA's list of 10 ways to build resilience – let me draw attention very quickly to 3 – connections, compassion, and change – [draw out some implications for our collaborations as they develop]

At this stage in our ponderings, then ...

Nourishing your collective soul here at St. Aidan's, as you are doing so wonderfully, is how you will build the resilience needed to flourish as the church of Jesus Christ in your neighbourhood – we hope that the kinds of collaborations that we are exploring with the three other churches in New West and Burnaby will enhance the energy of God's resilience in all these congregations – pray and work continuously for our faithful flourishing

Sermon notes of Rev Dr Brian Fraser,
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