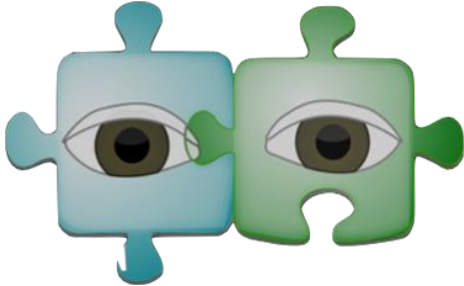


Seeing the Glory of God

Sermon Notes for Mar 26 2017 at Brentwood



Ps 23 and John 9:1-41

**Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”
(John 9:39)**

Provocative Ponderings that Call Forth Our Potential in Christ

- After I turned 55 (becoming what many these days call a ‘Zoomer’), I began to notice a concern emerge with a different kind of urgency – “How would I be judged?” – by myself, as I looked back on the ups and downs of an eventful life, by others as they looked back on those same events, and by God, who was coming into my line of sight in new and transformative ways – over these past 15 years, and still very much a work in progress, the words of Psalm 23 that called us to worship this morning have infused and informed by awareness of being judged - I will be judged, in the end, by a loving God who wants nothing but friendship and goodness for me – and I am invited, hard as taking up the invitation is, to see God’s goodness and mercy as the only kind of judgment that should concern me – God’s glory/energy is seen first and foremost in God’s steadfast and everlasting love – that is how things fit together in God’s view
- How God sees things is what we have tried to capture, admitting that humans can never fully capture, in the Brentwood Manifesto – the flow of the manifesto is this – God’s good intentions in creation, humanity’s rebellion against those, God’s determined, and in Jesus Christ decisive, efforts to overcome the impact of the rebellion, the focus of God’s work through the visible and invisible church, and an affirmation of our confidence that, in the end, God’s love defines reality – as we offer our space to the community as an arts centre, God draws into our circles of influence a wide range of people with a wide range of experiences of God – if we are going to sow the seeds of God’s grace in Jesus Christ and nourish those seeds as the Spirit enables us, then we need to be clear about the hope that is within us – that’s what the manifesto seeks to do – make a public declaration of our understanding of God’s intentions and motives as we flourish in the grace of Jesus Christ

At this point in our ponderings, then ...

In this sermon, just able to begin some deeper thinking about how we best witness to the hope that is within us – we’ll continue to do that together as we refine our manifesto and figure out how best to use it to help ourselves and others to see the glory of God in our lives

Notes for a sermon preached by Brian Fraser,
minister with Brentwood Presbyterian Church, Burnaby, BC