

## What Kind of Peace?

Sermon Notes for Apr 23 2017 at Brentwood



Ps 16 and John 20:19-31

**But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)**

### Provocative Ponderings that Call Forth Our Potential in Christ

- “Peace be with you” – this is one of the ‘tag lines’ that runs through the Scriptures as the Spirit uses this rich library of books to reveal what God is doing for the healing of the creation and the restoration of God’s original intention for the collaboration between the Trinity and humanity for blessing the whole creation – our full well-being lies in accepting that mission – as Steve Aisthorpe, a missional advocate in the Church of Scotland, put it, we flourish when we “co-mission” with God in cultivating/nourishing SHALOM in all of our circles of influence – so here’s the flow of God grace revealed in our passage this morning – giving us a peace that is so profound and powerful that it constantly stretches our understanding to deepen and expand, then sending us out to share that peace with God’s world
- What I like about this image of peace, that we have used before here at Brentwood, is the way the multiple languages point to the breaking down of walls that comes with God’s peace – it’s like the boundary-busting that happens at Pentecost – reflecting the boundary-busting that goes on throughout Jesus’ ministry – if we are being sent by God as God sent Jesus, this is our mission – break down boundaries in the power and service of God’s peace
- But how do we do that in a world so divided, so conflicted, so threatening? – how do we do that within our own souls, torn as they often seem to be by fear, anger, conflict, and despair – how do we do that within our intimate relationships, torn as they often seem to be by the same factors? – and how do we do that in our broader social and political lives, torn as they often seem to be by the same factors, writ large? – the answer that God gives in Jesus is God’s peace – it is a peace that is more powerful than any threat – it is the peace that comes only through God’s love for us – and in that love we are safe – protected against any threat to our deepest flourishing – not spared the deepest of difficulties, even to the point of death – but safe in the midst of them, safe as we move through them, safe as we work for their elimination in this world

### At this point in our ponderings, then ...

What does that require of us, then, as followers of this Jesus who gives God’s peace and sends us out on God’s mission? – as we say each week in Jazz Evensong, drawing from the prophet Micah, it requires loving kindness, doing justice, and walking humbly with God – in the strength and safety of God’s mind-blowing peace – a peace that is rooted in God’s steadfast love for us and for what we can do with the Holy Trinity to expand God’s peace to the ends of the earth

Notes for a sermon preached by Brian Fraser,  
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