

Key Insights for Christian Discipleship @ Jazz Evensong

Week 3 Sept 20, 2017 “Promise?” “PROMISE!”

Genesis 8:16

When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.

The flood in Genesis is the mother of all disasters!
For those who believe in an angry God
who manipulates nature to punish those
who revel in their rebellion,
the first part of this narrative is a great story.
God punishes the evil doers and saves the righteous remnant.
Those who revel in this punishment, of course,
are the heirs of that righteous remnant,
the chosen few who God really loves.

It's a story line that divides the good guys from the bad guys,
that supports a sense of superiority for your kind.
That way of reading this story is appealing and affirming
to those seeking for security and power.

But then the story gets to these words from the Creator:
“... the everlasting covenant
between God and every living creation of all flesh that is on the earth.”

“Are you serious? Are you really promising this?”
the revelers say in astonishment.
“Yes, I am. And I really do promise this.
You can trust me on that.”
replies our Creator who has kept that promise
and will keep it through all eternity.

That's what the rainbow means.
It's God's emphatic, eternal promise of blessing for all.

Maybe some God-inspired longing deep in our souls
accounts for the fascination and delight
that rainbows have for us.
I've never met anyone who does not like rainbows.
Have you?

The clouds clear
and the bow comes out to remind God and us
that the real story we are living in
is the story of God's steadfast and everlasting love.
We have to agree to play our part.
But that part is always there to play.