

## Key Insights for Christian Discipleship @ Jazz Evensong

Week 13 – Dec 6, 2017 – A Secure Home

Psalm 23:6

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*

I had a pretty good experience of home as a kid.  
In two previous marriages, not so much.  
Now, with Jill, I'm back on track.

I think the goodness and mercy referred to  
by the song writer in our text this evening  
was following me all the days of my life,  
but I too often lost touch with it.  
It was a complex rebellion  
against the authentic contributions to the Commonwealth of God  
that the Lord of the Psalms called me to at my birth.  
And so I wandered a long way from the house of the Lord.

What brought me back was a movie, *The Shawshank Redemption*.  
I can't remember a specific part of that movie  
that God used to convince me that I was forgiven.  
I can't remember a specific part of that movie  
that God used to free me for faithful friendship.  
I can't remember a specific part of that movie  
that God used to turn me around,  
to bring me back to my true home at table with the Holy Trinity.  
But it did!  
It was a feel, a sense, a hunch that such goodness and mercy were real.

The road has been anything but straight,  
but I've met some wonderful companions on the way –  
Jill and the new family that welcomed me so deeply,  
the stimulating people here at Brentwood,  
the amazing network of jazz musicians who work on this with us,  
and many others to numerous to name right now.  
They are all agents of the Lord's goodness and mercy.

There's a lot in the music tonight about companionship and grace at Christmas.  
Those are the best qualities of home that beckon so powerfully during this season.  
You will remember when you enjoyed those things - and when you didn't.  
But in the midst of all those memories  
and of the bustle and busyness of the season,  
take a moment now and then, perhaps with a glass of your favourite beverage,  
to remember the reason for the season.  
God is with us in the flesh, taking on all of our complexities,  
for the sole purpose of offering us goodness and mercy without conditions.