

**Key Insights for Christian Discipleship
@ Jazz Evensong**

#25 – Mar 7, 2018

A Migrant God

Matthew 2:14-25a *The Joseph got up, too the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.*

- Disruption in the norm in our world today – millions are displaced from their homes, travel hundreds of miles in search of safety, and live in exile for years, often crowded into refugee camps – the trauma invades their bodies and souls at multiple levels – 65.6 million world-wide – over 10 million under the age of 18 – without adequate food sources, health services, or education -
- I have friends who have worked parts of the world where these camps exist – they have all commented on how crucial women are in these make-shift communities – they are the mothers and grandmothers, the sisters and the cousins, who have a deeper sense of the need for love and a deeper determination to nourish others for a better future – one sage and seasoned aid workers says it this bluntly – “The future of our world in the hands of the women, especially of the mothers. They understand most deeply what is at stake.”
- I’ve always found it interesting that this is pretty much the last reference to Joseph in the stories about Jesus – it’s Mary who is the parent that sticks with him to the end – she is the one who loves him into and through death
- Tomorrow is International Women’s Day – it’s about having voices heard, working for equity, ensuring safety, and blazing new trails to achieve the respect and dignity due to all women in a world where they are far too often denied that God-given worth – the church has often been a central culprit in this denial – I pray that our confession of those sins and transformation of our attitudes and behaviours continues and quickens
- Juhli has chosen songs tonight that speak of the love found in women’s voices – I trust you will be moved and motivated by her witness to the strength and dignity of all women

The Brentwood Declaration

How Brentwood Presbyterian Church Understands Its Faith & Mission

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth
and declared them to be very good.
God then created humanity, male and female,
to cultivate blessing throughout the world.*

*Rejecting the limits of their power,
our ancestors rebelled against God’s vision of goodness.
By continuing to rebel against God’s constraints,
we compound the pain of toil, tyranny, trauma, and death.*

*But God never gave up.
In a definitive act of reconciling forgiveness,
God became incarnate among us.*

*In the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus of Nazareth,
God restored the original goodness of creation
as a commonwealth enjoyed on earth as it is in heaven.
The Holy Spirit continues to work out the fulfillment of that act.*

*Through the church universal in which we participate,
the Holy Spirit nourishes us to flourish as God’s friends
through worship, learning, fellowship, and service.*

*By God’s grace, in Jesus the Christ, through the Holy Spirit,
we know what it is to be loved and to love
amidst all the problems of the world,
and we are equipped, empowered, and sent
to sow the seeds of God’s peace in all of our circles of influence.*

*In the end, God’s love will transform the heavens and the earth,
and bring justice, peace, and joy to every dimension of creation.*

If something in this worship service has tweaked your interest in the worldview that underlies it, you will find a purple pamphlet at the back of the church with more on the composition and intent of this declaration, along with questions to help you consider it more carefully. Please help yourself.