

Notes for Brian's Sermon at Brentwood Presbyterian Church

Sun, June 24, 2018

**Do You Trust in God?
(Psalm 9:9-20 & 1 Samuel 17:32-49)**



**So Saul said to David,
“Go, and may the Lord be with you.”
(1 Samuel 17:37b)**

The story line of our passage/ text

David was an unlikely king – the youngest in a large family – untested in leadership, really – courage, yes – to ensure the well-being of what was entrusted to him and to confront the enemy – in both of these stories that his people remembered about him, David's strength as a leader is trusting in God to be with him, to protect him, as God will protect, in the face of those seeking to dismantle or destroy the people God had chosen to be the Trinity's primary agents in reconciling the world to themselves – the primary agents in building a Commonwealth of God marked by justice, kindness, and humility – that's what lies behind this simple blessing from Saul to David as he becomes king

Provocative Points to Ponder

- Last night Dan, with Simon, Mike, Conrad, and Sara, did the latest version of his jazz suite based on the parable of the prodigal son – as I listened in delight, I wondered what impact playing the first movement of the suite – ‘In the Garden’ – might have on us this morning, so we're going to listen to it as part of the sermon – music communicates at levels of our being that words alone seldom reach – this piece conveys so well for me the sense and feel of a trusting relationship with God – I hope it does the same for you
- [Dan, Simon, and Mike play ‘In the Garden’]
- Here are the words that come to my mind in listening to that wonderful composition – fully recognizing that words are inadequate to capture the full impact of this music - the peace and joy of intimacy with God, Creator, Redeemer, and Reformer, as we rest from a day of cultivating the garden in the energy of God – we are sent to be blessings in the use of whatever gifts God has given us and are assured that in every moment of every day, God is available to us in that mission
- Available, but not imposing or coercive – the inner work of God's Spirit does not force or compel in the ways that many humans want her to or try to do for her – she works by

gentle persuasion, by a kind and melodious influence, much in the way the first movement of Dan's Prodigal Son Suite worked in us and among us this morning

- David has a special place in the memories of Jews and Christians – there is a special intimacy with and trust in God that we recognize in him – and it is important for God that Jesus be a direct descendant of the great leader – indeed, a perfecter of what God intended to do through his people for the world – we get the deepest sense of the faith of David's people in the Psalms – indeed, in Judeo-Christian tradition, the Psalms are often attributed to David – we know that's not the way they were written and compiled, but attributing them to the name of the greatest king in Jewish history indicates the reverence people had for the trust in God that lies at the centre of this song book
- So, as Dan and I thought of a focus for our worship together over the next year, we decided it should be the Psalms – that the rich witness in those songs and poems to the trustworthiness of God, in the midst of all the complex dynamics of human life, would be a blessing to our mission here at Brentwood – beatitudes that can shape our attitudes - we'll start that engagement next week with Psalm 103 – see your Memorize and Ponder inserts for a few suggestions on how we might engage more deeply together in this exploration of how God is shaping our lives for mission

Your Notes

Prayers of Thanks – for the contacts and networks opened up for Brentwood at the Vital Worship Colloquium that Dan and Brian attended last week – for the inspiration and stimulation that has led to a shift in focus for our worship and learning life over the next year – for the interest and enthusiasm that people have shown in our Jesus, Jazz, and Worship Project (silence to consider this)

Prayers for Help – in healing the ruptures in the energy of your garden – the ruptures in families around the world as migration becomes the only means of flourishing for many – the ruptures in health that many in our congregation and community experience, especially for Winston and Sam as they recover from surgery and pneumonia (silence to consider this)

Prayers for Awe – at the wonderful ways you focus our attention on your work among us, as you build trust in your Commonwealth and invite us constantly to contribute our utmost for your highest (silence to consider this)