

Notes for Brian's Sermon at Brentwood Presbyterian Church

Sun, Mar 3, 2019 – Holy Communion

What Comes From a Covenant People?

(Psalm 100)



For the Lord is good;
your steadfast love endures forever,
and your faithfulness to all generations.
(Psalm 100:5)

A lesson from Psalm 100

The 'old' version of this psalm at #65 in our big blue *Book of Praise* was one of the first hymns I remember singing in church when I was a kid – this and 'Holy, holy, holy' that was used to open every service – let's sing it together – I think it will be familiar to many of you – and if it's new, it's a pretty catchy simple melody that will get into you quickly – [sing the hymn] – the message, both read and sung, is pretty clear – God is good, so praise, laud, and bless his name forever – if you want a core truth of the Christian faith, there it is – the goodness that God's grace bestows upon us is steadfast and enduring because God has promised that will be so – that's God's faithfulness – to the covenants he continually makes with humanity to bring us into humble alignment with his purposes of justice and kindness – and the response invited (never imposed) is joyful praise and grateful loyalty – God's faithfulness leading to our praise and loyalty – that's what comes from a people in covenant with the God who created, redeemed, and reforms this world and our participation in it

Provocative points to ponder – as always, too many to cram into one sermon

- While this 'Old 100th' is often sung with great pomp and pageantry, at coronations of monarchs, for example, there is an intimacy in the core truth of this psalm that in think is worth remembering – worth resting in – worth enjoying in the depths of our souls – this is a loving God who is good – who is steadfast and enduring in their love of us – who have already made us part of their family, made a place for us at the family table, furnished a room for us in the family mansion – and however far we may wander in our confused rebellions from this home, we are always welcomed back when, as Luke says of the prodigal son, we come to ourselves
- And where better to come to ourselves than in the act of worship – it really is the fundamental and formative activity for God's covenant people – think of the way we have begun describing this gathering here at Brentwood – we are welcomed by the eternal love of the Trinity – that family that is God in ways no human family can approach – we

are enveloped in wonder as we begin to sense how deep and how broad that love is and how powerfully it fulfills every desire of our souls – we listen, then, to understand that wonder and how it arises from God’s love as it draws forth praise for and loyalty to God’s purposes for God’s world – and, to put the playlist on continual repeat, those purposes are justice, kindness, and humility – that’s what gets refreshed in a nourishing way every time we come together for worship – every time we gather at this family table, made at home by the faithfulness of God to the covenants that make us blessings in God’s world

How does this all relate to our witness as a fellowship of the friends of Jesus?

What comes from this covenant people God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit is continuing to nourish? – goodness that is shaped by the love of that God – goodness that exhibits the freedom fruits of the Spirit Paul catalogued for the Galatians – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal 5:22-23a) – we get fed for that mission at this family table where Jesus is host – we confirm our willingness to respond to this God’s steadfast love and faithfulness as we meet this morning in our AGM, especially in the ways we decide to spend our money to witness to that love – so, come with your souls open to that love and ready to praise, laud, and bless this Lord in new and expanded ways

My Notes

My Prayers

