

Notes for Brian's Sermon at Brentwood Presbyterian Church

Sun, Sept 1, 2019

Eating and Drinking with Jesus

(Ps 112 and Acts 10:34-48)



**We are witnesses to all that he did
both in Judea and in Jerusalem.
They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;
but God raised him on the third day
and allowed him to appear.
(Acts 10:39-41)**

Insights from the story within the story

Here we go again – stories about strange encounters with things and people who have been reviled and rejected by us before – when it comes to the message the Lord is sending Peter in the vision of the food, it's essentially “lengthen and broaden the table to include foods and peoples that you didn't think really belong” – in my reconciling love, the love that led me to the cross and beyond, I have drawn you into a new age, a new way of seeing things, a new way of acting together, throughout the whole wide world – that action of God, in Jesus Christ, continuing to work itself out through the inner witness of the Holy Spirit, is what's happening here, especially at this table this morning

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

- Think, for a moment, of your last family dinner – who was there? – who wasn't? – what did you eat and drink? – who served the food, prepared it, acquired it? – where did it come from? – what was done to make it available to the family? – there's an agenda behind these questions – they were crafted to remind us the ecosystem of actors and activities that flows into our dinner tables – even into the simplest of meals, grabbed on the run, seemingly eaten along often – there's always a network of kin making that meal possible
- This is a family meal – the table is long and wide, reaching well beyond the walls of this little sanctuary – crossing borders and generations – drawing a strange mix of people to its nourishment – when we really think about who gathers around such tables around the world, we might get a little uncomfortable, a little confused, even a little distressed – if we tried to talk with one another, there might be a lot of dissonance in the early stages of those conversations – and,

given the polarizations that have infected the churches these days, we might have to sit in the distress of that dissonance for a long time – until the reconciling love of God transformed our attitudes and behaviours

How does this apply to our mission here at Brentwood?

It's an interesting image, isn't it? – sitting at the family table in dissonant discomfort – being fed by a host whose agenda is to change our lives – being fed with food that reminds us of that our hanging on a tree, being executed for the ways he crossed boundaries and questioned purity rules – but that resistance to change, no matter how violent and deadly it became, could not stop the intent of this host to broaden the kinship networks to the very ends of the earth – so, as we gather at this table this morning, here in our little sanctuary, I pray that we will become more and more conscious about who else is eating and drinking with Jesus this morning, in all the sanctuaries of this world where Jesus appears in this very special food and drink – let's commune with the holy

My Notes

My Prayers

