

Sunday Morning Worship at Brentwood, Nov 6, 2016 – Remembrance Sunday

Notes for the sermon on Being Children of the Resurrection

Ps 17:1-9 and Luke 20:27-38

Sermon Text = Luke 20:36



REMEMBER

***Indeed, they cannot die anymore,
because they are like angels and are children of God,
being children of the resurrection.***

[Hymns = 534, 530, and 556 in the *Book of Praise*]

Key Ideas

1. Can you imagine moving into a new neighbourhood as a kid, going next door, and saying to the kids who came to the door, “Hi, I’m a child of the resurrection! Want to come out and play?” – me neither – but here’s this strange phrase near the end of this long series of stories and teachings that Luke places in his account of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem – a hero’s journey, especially for his followers, if there ever was one – do you know the dynamics of the hero’s journey in literature and film? – here’s a quick summary:



2. As 'children of the resurrection,' those changed by the gift of flourishing life offered in Jesus, the Christ, we live our lives differently in the world – we are a different kind of presence – we model a different set of priorities and policies – we have a confidence that death has lost its sting and power – we have a trust that God is as close to us as a loving Father, guiding and protecting us in everything that do – we have an angelic vision, if you see angels as those who dance with joy in the Commonwealth of the Holy Trinity – but what has all of that got to do with Remembrance Sunday?
3. I would suggest that the hero's journey today, as it was in days of Jesus, is a journey to peace – understood as the full realization of God's SHALOM or flourishing for the whole of creation – through that journey, we find, over and over again as we grow in our discipleship, the unique ways we can contribute to the coming of God's peace in this world – I'm convinced that those who fought and died and were wounded and were traumatized by wars had, somewhere deep in their souls, a vision of this kind of peace – to honour their memory faithfully is to pick up that torch and carry it forward – hopefully, by different means and with different results – the game we play as children of the resurrection, in all earnestness, is the game of world peace – that is the new normal that we seek

At this stage in our ponderings, then ...

The image on our screen this morning captures, for me, the smears of blood that stain the fields and ruins of the battle field – even the memory, let alone the experience, of this kind of violence and slaughter, is traumatizing – but the hero's journey of Christian discipleship take us through the trauma to the triumph of a new life of resurrection, lived in friendship with Jesus, the Christ – that is the hope that we serve in this world where fear and division so often lead to war