

54602

Welcome to Worship at West Point Grey United Church

Easter 4

Sunday, May 14, 2000

The Worship Committee invites the congregation to choose a seat closer to the front of the Church

We are a congregation of great diversity. Some stand when indicated (), others remain seated for a variety of reasons. Please feel free to stand or sit as you are comfortable.*

PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Bill Bruneau

The Church Bells Call Us to Worship

* Hymn: "All People That On Earth Do Dwell" #822

* Words of Gathering

* The Peace:

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you

(Extend a word and sign of peace to another)

Candlelighting (seated): "Jesus Bids Us Shine" #585
(children may come forward during lighting of candles)

Theme Time with the Children and Young at Heart

(children leave now for their programs)

Gathering Songs (seated): "Breath on Me Breath of God" #382

Prayer

LISTEN FOR GOD'S MESSAGE

Choir Anthem: If you love me" - Tallis

* Indicates those who are able may stand.

Enlarged copies of the hymns are available from an usher.

Choir (sing): "Open My Eyes, That I May See" vs 1 #371

Theme Reading of the Day: Reader: Trish Miller

Psalms 23 (Responsively) Refrain # 2 p. 749

John 10:11-18

Response (All): "Open My Eyes, That I may See" vs 2 #371

Message Rev Jack Shaver

Hymn: "O For A Thousand Tongues" #326

Prayers of the People: Prayer Leader: Margaret Brown

(Leader: God, in your love People: Hear our prayer) may be used

Lord's Prayer (said)

OFFER OUR GIFTS

Offering

Offertory: Violin Solo

James Yang

Dedication of Offering: #539

God of all good, our gifts we bring to you,
use them your holy purpose to fulfil;
tokens of love and pledges brought anew
that our whole life is offered to your will.

Announcements

Hymn: "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" #658

Commissioning and Benediction

Amen

Thank you to all the volunteers who took part in today's service.

Thank you for coming to worship. Let us know if there is anything you need in order to feel more comfortable.

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23 Psalm

John 10: 7-18

I think we are much more likely to hear God speaking to us in John's Gospel if we approach the writing as the Author's expression of what Jesus came to mean to him, rather than as the accurate reporting of Jesus words.

— more accurate — the Editor/Author's expression of how a particular community thought of him.

Whatever Jesus actually thought and did — this is the chapel that had on the community —

[The closer we can get to what Jesus actually said & did the better we will understand why the community came to hold the view it did.] — so the genuine search for the historical Jesus will always be a great help to faith.

The whole GOOD SHEPHERD passage (Verses 1-18) is a mix of metaphors that won't untangle — happily we don't need to untangle them to get the author's message.

Jesus is the shepherd of his flock — because he was the door of the fold —

as contrasted with thieves & robbers who climb over the wall.

Jesus is the shepherd of the sheep - known
 known & is known by them -

as contrasted by the Stranger -

Jesus is the Door of the sheep fold -

sheep can go in & out - safe & pasture

live abundantly -

contrasted with thieves & robbers

who steal kill & destroy

Jesus is the Good shepherd -

gives his life for the sheep

contrasted with the hireling -

whose own the sheep are not

BOTTOM LINE of what John's Gospel is
 trying to tell us is that

✓ JESUS + THE FATHER ARE ONE

Now if we can just escape from being
 blind-sided by the Patriarchal sound
 of the language, (the writing does
 come out of a strongly Patriarchal
 era)

-- it possible for us to hear a revealing
 word from God in these metaphors.

John is trying to tell us that what we see and
 hear in Jesus is GOD IN THE WORLD

What we meet in Jesus is the Word of God
 in the flesh?

What word is there here for us when
we hear this Mx of Metaphors
Refer to God?

What comes to you as God
makes all the difference in your being
What you take to be God
The Ultimate

THOUGHT of the Powers of the Overpower
What you take to be what creates you.
sustains being
makes you somebody instead of
nobody

Makes all the difference in the way you
live.

Ironically what we trust for our salvation
- security
- creation
- fabrication } *part two 154*

Thiefs Robbers -
steals kills destroys.

School boy emotionally problem
prove he is somebody - one up
- turns all others into enemies

Emotionally ill

~~extremely~~ vulnerable - wound
~~ext~~ loved ones - mark

Parent - makes us a parent - 2nd to be
perfect parent - suffocate offspring

What we see in Jesus

is what God is really like
what will really create -

contrast with how
all the churches are for
the world

* Not a stranger, far off creator of evolution
who sits at a distance -
knows ~~you~~

Paul has a wonderful aside in
his letter to the Galatians - (4:8-9)

"Formerly, when you did not know
God, you were in bondage to
beings which were not God,
But now that you have come to
know God, or rather to be known
by God

When we have ~~seen~~ God stuff happen
When we experience a meeting with God
It's better described as a time
of knowing ~~yourself~~ known by God.

The God we meet in Jesus
Calls us by name
Believes in us

The reason we are somebody
God calls us somebody,

Not just a few chosen ones
all the others (other sheep & how)

Chose victimhood - referring to God's life -

- stuck with it -
- not something as ~~an~~ mat -

Chose to Take on brokenness & rebelliousness of the world -

Chose not just to judge it - but to save it -

God's relationship to us & to the whole world - where sin abounds -
Broken & Round out life -
Loves the world,

~~for a while it~~
~~Does this sound like all were talking~~
~~about ~~what we talk about~~ here~~
is Personal salvation?

How we get to be somebody

- First Place - all those we call their
instead of us are called his

Second The point of being called somebody by God - instead of undertaking your own justification.

→ is not so you can have a clean nose at the last judgment,

But so that you can forget your call up
without being a hypocrite
that steals a ball & is no more

Parent	Son Daughter	}	Without being a destroyer consuming others. aggressor.
Teacher	Student		
Healer			
Care Giver			
Justice Worker			
Neighbor			
Advocate of marginalized			

We are called somebody by God
so that we can be up to
the Broken & Frowned out life that
our old world so desperately
needs.