

First Sunday after Christmas

31 Dec 2017

Isaiah 61: 10-62.3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40
Vanderbilt Lectionary

Christmas 1B December December 31, 2017 Textweek

‘Open up your hearts and let the sun shine in’

70th birthday approaching: reminded me: My 50th. ‘Back Nine’

Not alone here: so

St “Oldenfolks ” Day: Anna and Simeon our patron saints

Commentators: Dtr thought of getting me a t-shirt

What did their community think of them? Obviously been hanging around a while!

Religious nut cases ?

Having an experience of themselves or of God

Question: We oldies: what do we bring?

Remember the Parable of the Sower: I seem to remember dr John saying it was a good description of life’s Journey:

⁵“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. ⁶Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.

Life is fragile:

Enough rocky road to have learnt something

.....

Part 2

Noticed that three of the readings include Praising God

Ruminating, it occurred to me that perhaps Praise is the natural outward direction of the experience of

Letting the sun shine in
Literally/ metaphorically/ spiritually

Or Of the sun shining in

Aside: We open ourselves/ Open .there are two actions: one is we/ the other is being open to

The idea of God, and the experience of the sun shining in = Moving beyond ourself as the “fount of all knowledge” – “ She who knows everything”.- the ultimate reference point of life

Praise is the partner of Sense of there being more.. being open to it, and opening up oneself

My fav theologian: “lifts us up” allows us to transcend the downward pull
.....

Part 3

The side stories of our Nativity of God-with-Us” has folk who have found ways to let the sun shine in
Shepherds/ Anna / Simeon

Story from E germany;

Then there are little bits that lead us to go PTL

/the smell of the lemon gums /kids at the front / light on the xmas tree /in the garden/
in the moonlight / going on a holiday where you get a holdiayt from yourself

Finding the place where we are opened up to something bigger than us which is in fact
Gracious/ Merciful/ self Giving / Life Giving

Choosing to be open to praise/placing ourselves in the place where the sun shines in..

The light shines in the darknesss and the darkenss has not overcome it.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, *
according to thy word;
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, *
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, *
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Howard Eaton