

Sermon Analysis

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Lora Hargrove

Context: Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Rockville, MD

Date: December 2014

Occasion: Advent Season, “Black Lives Matter Sunday”

Orientation: Trivocal (prophetic voice leading); call and response

Sermonic Function: Proclamation (Kerygmatic); Teaching (Didactic)

Text: Luke 2:8-18; 20

Title: *Unspeakable Joy*

Claim: Even today as we mourn our young black men and women who have laid down their lives, lost their lives, we can rejoice in the fact that though we are mourning the dead black youth in our midst, we can rejoice in the delivering power of Almighty God.

Compelling quote: “...while we love our President, and we do, and while we pray for our President, and we do, some of us sometimes forget that our President is still the government and not God and so, therefore, we need to be able to speak truth to power, even if that power is in the face of a black man sitting in the Oval Office. We thank God for God placing him there, but we are at a point in time in our history where we need to be able to pull off the rose-colored glasses and see our situation for exactly what it is.

His hands are bound in so many ways, but our hands are not. His mouth is bound because of the office that he sits in, but our mouths are not. This is not an indictment on the man—it is an indictment on the office.”

Proctor Method

Antithesis: Narrated; extended (open letter to President Obama, youth’s disappointment in recommendation) p. 1-4

Proposition/Thesis: God’s agenda is an agenda of community—an agenda of inclusion on God’s part and our working together. p. 5

Relevant Question: How will we make our way toward joy? p. 6

Synthesis: 1. Unspeakable joy is joy that saves 2. Unspeakable joy is joy that sees 3. Unspeakable joy is joy that celebrates p. 7-8

Conclusion: Rehearsal of God’s faithfulness; claim stated; intertextual insertion; turn to hearer; call to action

Marks: 1. Contextually–fitting/gospel faithful; 2. Quasi-expository, topical subject; 3. Celebratory closing 4. Womanist theological reflection/biblical interpretation (closing) 5. Rhetorical features: *alliteration, amplification, metaphor, personification, repetition in melodic refrain; use of colloquialisms; and word picture.*