

# Flourishing as the Friends of Jesus (who really like jazz!)



*This the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,  
“The voice of one crying in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight.’”  
(Matt 3:3)*

In the Christian tradition of saint’s days,  
this is the day of St. Andrew.  
He is the patron saint of Scotland,  
a place to which I trace my roots.

In some of the stories,  
Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist,  
then became a follower of Jesus.  
Assuming there is some truth to this,  
the idea of wilderness would have played a big role  
in the way in which Andrew understood his faith and flourishing.

Most jazz musicians I know understand the idea of wilderness.  
It may be the wilderness of practice, when nothing seems right.  
It may be the wilderness of gigs, none or really low pay.  
It may be the wilderness of doing something completely new,  
that few others really seem to understand.

But in the midst of it all, there is a presence, a Muse, a Spirit,  
that brings resilience for the journey  
through which the musicians bring their gifts to the world.  
This, for me, is the energy of Jesus, infusing us with flourishing,  
whatever wilderness we may be journeying through.