

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

Notes for the Reflections on Jan 11, 2017



I've been reading a lot over the holidays
on jazz and theology,
indeed, on jazz as theology.

We've been accustomed to treating theology
as reasoning about God –
theos = God & *logos* = reason.
Theology is usually done
in carefully considered words
that offer an orderly understanding
of who God is, who human beings are,
and how they relate within God's creation.

But to see jazz as theology goes beyond this
in provocative ways.

It opens up the possibility
that there may be truths about God
that cannot be contained or conveyed in words.

It opens up the possibility
that God is improvisational in the way God works.

It opens up the possibility
that God intends us to swing with joy.

What Is This Evensong Thing?

Evensong is a service of worship,
a means of paying tribute through song and prayer
to the divine energy that we Christians consider
the source of our being.

We come to know the love that inspires this God
most clearly in the life of Jesus,
the One through whom God redeemed
the beloved creation to its original purpose.
That love continues to inspire all of us
through the work of God's Holy Spirit,
a dynamic we believe is at work in our world
whether we recognize it or not.

Worship is an experience
where this God encounters us with that love
in ways most suited to nourishing our flourishing.

The evensong tradition of worship
can be traced back to the Jewish synagogue,
then through Christian monasteries,
then through the Anglican Prayer Books
of Thomas Cramner (1489-1556).

It has been adapted and improvised on
down through the ages,
but always with the intent of
refreshing the soul and informing the mind.

We trust something of this kind of inspiration
will be yours this evening.

Thank you so much
for blessing us with your presence this evening.