

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

Jan 18, 2017



*They wake up suddenly in the night.
There is light and figures dancing in the sky
clothed in more colours than the world can contain.
(Bruce Cockburn, *Shepherds*)*

Adele Wilding and this wonderful group recorded their cover of this song here in the Sanctuary in early December, with Ken Burke doing the technical wizardry. They will perform it this evening as our final number.

As I pondered the kind flourishing these lyrics invite, I was struck by the image of colours beyond this world's imagining and containing dancing in the night. Something spectacularly miraculous is happening here. Heaven is infusing earth with its brilliant energy and the only appropriate response is to dance in rhythm with the angels.

Jazz, to me at least, draws together all of this energy
It inspires and infuses the players.
It inspires and infuses the audiences.
And it invites both groups
to take the dance of God with us
into every corner of the world.

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.