

Jammin' with the Wisdom of Jesus

Some Notes for the Reflection on May 10, 2017



'Blue Monk' – great rendition of a jazz classic!

Theolonious Monk was a founder of bebop.

That was a phase in the evolution of jazz
that featured intensity, energy, and mastery.

There's a determination to express the depth of your being
in the music.

And that determination challenges the listeners
to do the same in response to the music.

This is not the easy listening of smooth jazz.

This is not easy to understand.

This is music that is open and honest
about the pains and losses of life.

'Blue Monk' was written in 1954.

Monk would later say it was one of his favourite compositions.

Abbey Lincoln wrote words for the tune in 1961.

*Life is school, les' you're a fool,
but learning brings you pain.*

As in any blues, the lessons are in the pain
and in your determination to live through it
to hear and play the music that affirms your dignity and worth.

In the Christian way of knowing the meaning of life,
we see this dignity and worth as a gift of God
given to every human being.

It is sacred, not to be violated by others or my ourselves.

That's the truth about life that I hear in 'Blue Monk.'

I hope you could hear something of the same.

The Brentwood Manifesto of the Christian Faith

How We See God, the World, Humanity, and the Future

*In the beginning, God created the world
and delighted in its diversity and development.
God created human beings
and nourished them to flourish in blessing all of creation.*

*But humanity rebelled, rejecting the limits of their power.
Their rebellion against God's vision of justice, peace, and joy
brought tyranny, suffering, and death.*

*God never tired of calling humanity home
to work in common to cultivate the well-being of the world.
Through the law and the prophets,
God's Spirit invited love of God, love of others, and love of self
as the empowering energy for engaging in this mission.*

*In a unique and decisive act of reconciliation and revelation,
God overcame our alienation and loneliness.
God took flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.*

*In the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ,
the creation is restored to its original purpose.
God continues to craft the completion of this redemption.*

*Through the church universal, visible and invisible,
the Holy Spirit empowers people
to participate consciously in their reconciliation
through worship, learning, fellowship, and service.*

*By God's grace in Jesus Christ through the work of the Spirit,
we know what it is to be loved and to love
amidst all the problems of the world.
We are equipped and sent to sow seeds of God's SHALOM
in all of our circles of influence.*

*In the end, God's love, healing, and forgiveness
will transform heaven and earth
and bring justice, peace, and joy to full realization.*