

Jammin' with the Wisdom of Jesus

Some Notes for the Reflection on July 19, 2017



I've always loved that Ellington piece that Angela and the guys just did – 'Come Sunday.' I first heard it in his first Sacred Concert, performed in San Francisco's Grace Cathedral as part of its Festival of Grace when it opened in 1965. There's actually a DVD of the concert – well worth finding and watching.

In the notes for the concert, Ellington writes these sage words:
*Wisdom is something that [humanity] partially enjoys –
One and only One has all the wisdom.
God has total understanding.
There are some people who speak one language
and some who speak many languages.
Every [person] prays in his own language,
and there is no language that God doesn't understand.*

Jazz is the language that we celebrate in Jazz Evensong. It's a rich, diverse, and challenging language. None of us humans understand it completely, especially those playing it. There are constant surprises that God has in store as these marvelous musicians explore their talents and passions.

That's the beauty of it. It's the same with any of us in our conversations. After all, conversations are the most common form of jazz. God is constantly surprising us with new wisdom as we explore the meaning and significance of our lives with each other, one conversation after another.

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.*

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