

# Jammin' with the Wisdom of Jesus

Some Notes for the Reflection on July 26, 2017



I had the pleasure this morning  
of doing the Pastor's Hour  
at the Christian Urban Camps  
that we are co-sponsoring  
with the Collaborating Churches of New West and Burnaby.  
There are three of them we are offering this summer.  
You can find out more on the poster at the back.  
We're taking children in grades 1-6  
through a week of exploring how to be a good neighbour  
in the multi-ethnic, multi-faith community  
that is Greater Vancouver.  
The chord chart or melody for this exploration  
is Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan.

Presbyterian preacher and writer Frederick Buechner  
says that a parable is a small story with a big point.  
The big point of this small story is  
love God, love neighbours, and love yourself  
without letting your religious or racial prejudices  
get in the way.

That's a really important lesson to hear today.  
And it lies at the very centre of Jesus' wisdom.  
As Jesus tells the lawyer whose challenge  
sparks this story,  
"This is my summary of all the wisdom  
of my own Jewish religious tradition."

From the enthusiasm of the children over at St. Aidan's today,  
the seeds of that wisdom are being sown  
in fertile soil.

## 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.*