

Jammin' with the Wisdom of Jesus

Some Notes for the Reflection on Aug 2, 2017



This coming weekend,
I have the privilege of preaching at St Andrew's, Kaslo,
during that town's Jazz Etc Festival.

It's become a regular gig.

This year we'll play around with the chord chart
laid down by Jesus in the parable of the Good Samaritan –
love God with your whole being, love your neighbour,
and love yourself.

I'm more and more fascinated by Christianity's chord charts.

What is the simplicity of the faith
beyond the complexities of our culture?

What are the memes that point clearly to God's purpose?
What are the visions that pierce the darkneses of our days
with the light of God's love in Christ through the work of the Spirit?

When you leave this time and place of worship this evening,
will your love of God, love of neighbour, and love of self
be inspired, be activated, be clearer, be stronger?

Will you work with the Spirit in a more conscious way
to co-cultivate the seeds of God's SHALOM
- God's justice, peace, and joy -
that have been scattered in this music,
through these prayers, in this reflection,
in the conversations that follow the service?

We do this every week, with amazing musicians like this,
in the humble confidence that the God we see most clearly
in Jesus Christ

will touch our souls in their vital depths
with the love that casts our fear and makes us whole.

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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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