

# Jammin' with the Wisdom of Jesus

Some Notes for the Reflection on Aug 23, 2017



Have you every noticed how infectious jazz is,  
how easily it gets into your body  
and kind of takes over?  
It gets your head nodding,  
your fingers air-drumming,  
your toes tapping.

There's a great Count Basie quote,  
I think from an interview with Mike Wallace on 60 Minutes in the 1960s:  
"If I've got your toe, I got your mind and heart."

No matter what depths of human pain and sorrow jazz touches,  
it always comes back to the joy of being alive,  
the joy of being creative,  
the joy of being in community with others,  
regardless of their race or colour or age or gender.  
Jazz makes good neighbours.

This summer, we've been working with three other churches  
to offer Christian Urban Camps for kids in grades 1-6.  
It has been fascinating to listen to them improvise  
with the basic story of the Good Samaritan.  
Jesus told it to show a lawyer what the law was really about –  
loving God, loving neighbour, and loving yourself.  
And neighbours were the ones who showed mercy,  
regardless of what others thought of them.  
It was gratifying to watch the kids and their teachers  
get infected with this deep truth  
more and more as the weeks went on.

I couldn't help but think of jazz  
as another means Jesus uses to infect us  
with his grace and truth,  
especially as we face the racism and sexism and nationalisms  
that threaten the flourishing of the world these days.  
We need the brilliant resilience of this kind of jazz and this kind of faith  
to inspire resistance to these dark forces.

## 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.*