

Chord Charts for Christian Discipleship @ Jazz Evensong

Week 1 Sept 6, 2017 *How'd It All Get Started?*

“In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth ...”
(Genesis 1:1)

There is a wonderful hymn in the Canadian Presbyterian *Book of Praise* that captures this chord chart about the creation beautifully:

*God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty who has made all thing well.*

How you see the origins of the world makes a big difference to everything that you feel, and think, and do.

If it's just a random set of senseless, impersonal interactions of chemicals generating energy, then the world can be seen a frightening threat to everything you hold dear.

If it's an act of love by a energetic power that creates human beings in its own image, to care for the rest of the creation in humble partnership with that energy, then the world can be seen as a home to be cultivated, as the space in which everything you hold dear is nourished to flourish.

“In the beginning, God ...”
In the notes to his *Sacred Concert* in 1964, Duke Ellington said those first four words of the Bible were the six tones that got repeated many times and many ways in that worship service.
He also noted that if humans are troubled by fear, they moan and cry, but if they feel that what they enjoy in life is only because of the grace of God, they rejoice, and sing, and dance.

That's the difference our views of how it all got started make.
How we live in and for the world is grounded in how we see the world.
The option offered in Christian discipleship, the fundamental chord chart upon which all the others build is to cultivate that world in love with the support of its loving Creator.