



## Key Insights for Christian Discipleship @ Jazz Evensong

#15 – Dec 20, 2017

### Resting in the Faithfulness of God

#### Psalm 100:5

*For the Lord is good; his steadfast love  
endures forever, and his faithfulness to all  
generations.*

I've been singing 'Hark the Herald' for a lot of years,  
every year,  
for a lot of years.

But this year, I was struck by a phrase  
that had not attracted my attention before.

It's in the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse.

"Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings."

Light, life, and healing.

Think for a moment about the world in which we live. ...

Think for a moment about the darkneses we face. ...

Think for a moment about the deaths happening daily. ...

Think for a moment about the dis-eases that beset us. ...

What a dream this phrase suggests!

Life, light, and healing – a commonwealth of peace.

I don't know about you, but I'm in!

That vision gets into my gut, stirs my heart, excites my brain.

How can that happen?

There are lots of answers to that question out there.

Certain politicians will tell you it's all about tax reform.

Certain personal development gurus  
will give you the magic formula, for a price.

Certain versions of certain religions,  
including many Christians,  
will tell you it's about believing certain truths in certain ways,  
and/or acting in certain ways.

Lots of people make lots of promises  
about light, life, and healing.

But I think too many of them are too certain of their answers.

I think, humbly and tentatively,  
that light, life, and healing come from God.  
They come because God is faithful to his steadfast love  
for his creation

in mysterious, surprising, and reliable ways.  
That first Christmas, this love 'invaded'  
a world very much like ours,  
filled with the darkneses, deaths, and dis-eases  
of various kinds of imperialisms.

But God did not 'invade' with imperial strengths,  
as a conquering hero or master of the universe.

He 'invaded' as a little kid,  
born of unmarried teen-agers, in a back alley,  
in the dead of night in the dead of winter.  
The imperial powers forced them to flee into exile,  
refugees from threats to their lives.  
This was a terrorized and traumatized entry  
into the harsh realities of a hate-filled world.

But in spite of all of this,  
the faithfulness of God's love for this creation prevailed.  
That's the promise of Christmas.  
From words and phrases from Christmas carols and songs,  
whatever your current take on life,  
there is a hint, a hunch, a sense,  
that we all need a little more Jesus in our lives.  
I hope that hunch is reinforced by our time together tonight  
and that it haunts you through the rest of this Christmas season.

And I hope the divine, loving haunting draws you  
back to Jazz Evensong in 2018!