

Key Insights for Christian Discipleship @ Jazz Evensong

Week 12 – Nov 29, 2017 A Cause for Singing

Psalm 21:13 *Be exalted, O Lord, in your strength! We will sing and praise your power.*

It's been flying around the internet
on whatever invisible wings that data uses these days.
I first say it on a church sign board.
Then it started to show up in the memes on Facebook.
They seem to have figured out that like this kind of thinking.
And now it turns out that Glenn has written a song about it.
How cool is that!

Here's the cause for singing I'm talking about.
'Build a longer table, not a higher wall.'

In these days of division, desperation, and dread,
knowing just what the strength of God is
becomes so important.
The words in our insight this evening
come from the Book of Psalms.
It's part of the Hebrew Scriptures in the Bible.
It's a collection of poems and songs
used for centuries when Jews and Christians
gathered to worship.
In that worship, they remembered and celebrated
how the power and strength of God had helped them through tough times.
They acted out an alternative community
that welcomed people to long tables.
They did not, if they were being true to God's call,
build higher walls.

Now, let's be honest.
People within both manifestations of God's covenant community
have distorted and degraded the intent of God time after time.
What passes for Christianity in much of Trump's support base
is an insult to the work and witness of Jesus of Nazareth.

I composed the chord charts of my life in late 60s and early 70s.
The sound tracks of that formation came from folk and jazz.
Glenn and I figured our paths must have crossed back in those days.
So I'm delighted to hear this new song that he has composed.
It captures so beautifully and powerfully
the cause for singing that Christian discipleship revolves around –
being a humble friend of God
in the quest for his justice, peace, and joy.
That's our true source of strength and our real cause for singing.