



**Key Insights for Christian Discipleship @  
Jazz Evensong**

**#16 – Jan 3, 2018**

**Rock Solid Love**

**Psalms 121:8**

*The Lord will keep your going out  
and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.*

You know you're getting old  
when brilliant young jazz musicians  
start referring to the stuff of your youth  
as something that happened a long time ago.

Cat's wonderful liner notes  
for *Human Kind*  
gently and kindly reminded me of that.  
She is looking back to and reviving  
the spirit of the 1960s  
in the midst of our current 'regression,'  
as she so rightly calls it,  
from those visions and ideals.

Here are a couple of powerful quotes from those notes.

In the first, she reminds us of the words of Toni Morrison:

*This is precisely the time when artists go to work.  
There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity,  
no need for silence, no room for fear.  
We speak, we write, we do language.  
That is how civilizations heal.*

And then there are Cat's own words:

*The HUMAN KIND project believes in an understanding  
that what happens to your neighbour  
is held in humanity's shared unconscious mind  
and is passed down generationally  
until our efforts transcend this unconsciousness. ...  
This music is meant to nourish the initiative  
to crack the door open to see outside one's sphere.  
It is meant to abate ignorance and stoke the fire of compassion.  
It is meant to energize the soul so that we the people can  
mobilize,  
organize and get out there!  
It is meant to touch the spirit and keep the faith.  
It is meant to inspire  
so that we might begin to take steps  
to transcend unconsciousness.*

I resonate so deeply with those aspirations.  
And this is where the Psalm's message comes in for me,  
and perhaps for you.

The resilience to do this kind of artistic work,  
the resilience to keep at it in the most discouraging of  
regressions,  
comes from the steadfast and rock solid love of God.  
That love is with you as you go out from worship service  
to do justice and love kindness.

That love is with you as you come back  
to sanctuaries like this  
to reconnect with God in worship  
and find nourishment for your flourishing  
in doing justice and loving kindness.

I hope you are hearing the power of that love in Cat's  
compositions.

I know that I am and that I am deeply grateful.