



Key Insights for Christian Discipleship @ Jazz Evensong

#17 – Jan 10, 2018

What to Expect from God's Spirit

Isaiah 11:2

*The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

There is a deep-seated tradition in the Christian community
that God's Spirit works in and through music.

It's is a vehicle,
different from but complementary to words,
through which God communicate with us.
And God has the ability to use any kind of music,
whether it is consciously Christian or not,
to offer the might of wisdom, understanding, and counsel.
In this gift, we are nourished to flourish
in loyalty to the Lord.

I have never heard the Abbey Lincoln song
chosen by Karen for the play list this evening –

So I asked her for the lyrics.
They're wonderful.
You'll hear the whole song after the reflection,
all of which is worth pondering carefully.

But here are the words that struck me most:

*Music is a lover
with shiny golden wings
that whispers in the lovers' ears*

*and dances when it sings
and sings in variations
on an everlasting theme
it's either love or sorrow on the scene.*

What's important to remember,
as we think of God's love as the source of music,
is that the Bible does not really focus
on what we, in our day, would call 'romantic' love.
Rather, it focuses on loyalty in right relationships –
first, God's loyalty to us and the reason God created us, and
second, our response of loyalty in grateful response.
This is what get's whispered in our ears
and calls to get up and dance.
We are invited, allured, drawn into
the dance of blessing,
of doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our
God.

The other insight from these lyrics
and from the tune that carries them into our souls,
is that the Holy Trinity's song is expressed in variations.
God has given each of us unique gifts
for contributing to the Trinity Trio's harmony for all creation.
You align with and contribute to the score
that God is composing to delight the whole cosmos.

That's what any jazz group is loyal to – the melody.
Jesus calls it the Commonwealth of God.
It's a community of wisdom and understanding,
of counselling and encouraging each other
to flourish in loyalty
to our Creator, Redeemer, and Reformer.

I pray that Spirit touches you this evening –
through this wonderful music,
through our prayers,
through this reflection,
and through the welcome
that you will always enjoy here