



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

#18 – Jan 17, 2018

Healing the Hurts

Isaiah 65:25b

*They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain,
says the Lord.*

So, we human beings are not doing so well these days
in aligning with God's will regarding hurt and destruction.
Have you noticed that?

Our rebellion against this prophetic vision is still going strong.
We create endless distortions and denials
of our core calling as human beings –
to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.
We rebel continually against those constraints.
And the result is traumatic hurt and destruction.

Wars and terrifying warnings of war
fill our media these days,
no matter how filtered we or they try to make it,
leaving us fearful, defensive, and outraged.
Conflict and abuse within families and friendship networks
continue to traumatize everyone involved.
From self-doubt to self-loathing,
our negative self-talk drains us the self-respect
that is our birthright from God.

God's prophetic vision is falling on deaf ears these days.
Many are increasingly oblivious to the birthright of respect
that is our birthright from God.
Many are simply indifferent to any thought or talk of God.

So, how do we witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ
in ways that the Spirit can use
to break through the deafness and the indifference?

That question, along with a deepening appreciation
for the workings, wit, and wisdom of jazz,
led this little congregation to start playing around
with worshipping in jazz.

We think music
is one of the most powerful instruments in God's toolkit
for breaking through that deafness and indifference.

We think jazz speaks with a unique power
to the human condition as we are experiencing it
in the twenty-first century
in the most secular of Canada's three major urban areas.

Martin Luther King Jr,
whose witness to justice, kindness, and humility
we have been remembering this week,
paid tribute to the power of this music
that arose from his black forbearers in the United States
with these words, "Jazz speaks for life. This is triumphant music."

What triumphs in jazz
is the justice, kindness, and humility
that is born of a growing consciousness
of our relationship with God in Christ
through the work of the Holy Spirit.
This is a reality that is nourishing us to flourish
whether we acknowledge it or not,
whether we are in God's visible church or in his invisible one.
That's what I listen for
in all the jazz musicians who work with us in this space of grace.
Where is the Spirit working through their music
to heal the hurts of the world?
Because she is!
Of that I have no doubt.