

Key Insights for Christian Discipleship  
@ Jazz Evensong

#24 – Feb 28, 2018

**What a Family Tree!**

**Matthew 1:1** *An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

- why start with a great long list of who begat who? – most of us don't trace our family trees back thousands of years – most of us, frankly, don't care - but Matthew is trying to establish Jesus creds – the gospel writers are writing their versions of the story of what God finally did to bring the whole creation back into alignment with his original intent – a community of justice and kindness that walks humbly with its loving creator – Abraham and David were key figures in that long line of ancestors – for Abraham, the covenant to be a blessing – for David, the attempt, not always successful, to order the nation's life to follow God with devotion and delight – both exercised faithful leadership as they modeled, albeit imperfectly, gratitude for God's gracious gifts that sustain and improve life together with the whole of creation
- love the image in Heather's last song – 'Pennies from heaven' – in midst of the storms of life, rain and thunder, recognize that there is nourishing loving dynamic at work that brings sunshine and flowers – and these best things in life are free – they're gifts from heaven – Johnson and Burke don't get specific in the lyrics, but in my hearing, those gifts come from God, freely given for our benefit and delight – that's just who God is – full of generosity and grace – qualities of life with which we resonate deeply
- We resonate with this God – it may begin simply as a hunch, a sense that there is something more to life than crass materialism and alienated individualism – it may be the richness of a note, the surprise meaning in a phrase, the joyful looks as musician and audience connect in their souls – however it hits you, those of us in the Christian tradition of spirituality believe that the source and sustaining power of this resonance is the God who was working through Jesus and his ancestors, a God that still works in our midst through his Holy Spirit – and we invite you to give that possibility some serious consideration as the jazz continues

# **The Brentwood Declaration**

*How Brentwood Presbyterian Church Understands Its Faith & Mission*

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth  
and declared them to be very good.  
God then created humanity, male and female,  
to cultivate blessing throughout the world.*

*Rejecting the limits of their power,  
our ancestors rebelled against God's vision of goodness.  
By continuing to rebel against God's constraints,  
we compound the pain of toil, tyranny, trauma, and death.*

*But God never gave up.  
In a definitive act of reconciling forgiveness,  
God became incarnate among us.*

*In the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus of Nazareth,  
God restored the original goodness of creation  
as a commonwealth enjoyed on earth as it is in heaven.  
The Holy Spirit continues to work out the fulfillment of that act.*

*Through the church universal in which we participate,  
the Holy Spirit nourishes us to flourish as God's friends  
through worship, learning, fellowship, and service.*

*By God's grace, in Jesus the Christ, through the Holy Spirit,  
we know what it is to be loved and to love  
amidst all the problems of the world,  
and we are equipped, empowered, and sent  
to sow the seeds of God's peace in all of our circles of influence.*

*In the end, God's love will transform the heavens and the earth,  
and bring justice, peace, and joy to every dimension of creation.*

If something in this worship service has tweaked your interest in the worldview that underlies it, you will find a purple pamphlet at the back of the church with more on the composition and intent of this declaration, along with questions to help you consider it more carefully. Please help yourself.