

Key Insights for Christian Discipleship  
@ Jazz Evensong

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Light It Up!

**Matthew 5:14-15** *You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house.*

- I love 'Skylark' – such a great melody – swinging and soaring – and these powerful and poignant words in the chorus:

*I don't know if you can find these things  
but my heart is riding on your wings  
so if you see them anywhere  
won't you lead me there.*

- This chorus speaks to a deep human longing – the longing for love – it's a repeating theme in jazz, the laments of the blues
- Let me play around with this chorus a little bit – I'm going to read a bit of theology into it – and perhaps shed some light on what it might mean in the larger scheme of things
- In the Bible, the Holy Spirit, God's continuing presence embracing the world with God's love, is often portrayed as a bird – mostly a dove – but let's expand our horizons and imagine this skylark in Johnny Mercer's lyrics as God's Spirit – carrying our souls on its wings and leading us to those things that will satisfy our longings for a love that nourishes us to flourish – in the Christian tradition, the source of such love is God, whose nature we see most clearly in Jesus Christ – it is the work of the Spirit to carry us there and embrace us into an unshakeable relationship with the steadfast love of God
- That relationship is the light of the world Matthew talks about – it's not meant for us alone, but it is meant to flow through us into the world as a blessing – that's what happens with music as well – whether it's the trio's take on standards or their offering of Jonny's originals, they are making that music light up our souls – so let's listen to more of the inspiration in that music

# 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.