

Key Insights for Christian Discipleship  
@ Jazz Evensong

#27 – Mar 21, 2018

**Sowing Seeds of Love**

**Matthew 13:23**

*But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundred fold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.*

- I can lose myself in rapt joy listening to Ella Fitzgerald – her various renditions of ‘My Romance’ (Rogers & Hart) are among my favourites – the refrain of this song resonates deeply within my soul:

*Wide awake,  
I can make my most fantastic dreams come true.  
My romance doesn't need a thing but you.*

- As many of you know, I have a habit of reading theology into jazz lyrics and riffs – I am convinced that the God who saved the world in Jesus Christ after generations of inviting humanity back into the companionship of creation continues to work out this intent within and well beyond the church – like in the jazz tradition – so, here I go again!
- Fitzgerald had a troubled love life – except when it came to her love of the music as it carried the lyrics and the effort she put into making that love work – her singing is a work of love and you can feel it every time that unique voice makes the air vibrate – something took over, working in her and through her and radiating through her audiences – I choose to see it as the love of God and I understanding that love most deeply when I listen to the Spirit’s witness to how that love shaped the life and redemptive work of Jesus of Nazareth
- This is my take on the energy flowing through the inspiring music of jazz – I’m convinced it’s flowing through these wonderful young musicians tonight – they may not agree – you may not agree – but the seeds of seeing the source of this flow of love differently, of attributing it to the God we see in Jesus, have been sown – let’s see what the Spirit does with them

# **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.