

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

#29 – Apr 4, 2018

Harmonizing on God's Intent

Mark 9:2b-4

And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white. Such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

- The words I just read are from a story in the Gospels that Christians have called 'The Transfiguration' – Jesus goes up the mountain and gets into a conversation with Moses and Elijah – but what could this old story possibly have to do with jazz? – well, it has to do with the talking thing – conversations as jazz
- This get together on a mountain a long time ago and far away was kind of like a jam with the masters – imagine Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis, and Ilhan Safareli (a wonderful young trumpeter here in Vancouver) getting together and talking about the tradition they were honouring and expanding – that's what I see happening here
- The tradition represented by Moses and Elijah is God's intent and desire for the wellbeing of his creation and the role of human beings in cultivating that – that's what Jesus is all about – bringing us back into a friendship with God that nourishes justice, kindness, and humility – that's the melody line for the whole tradition, just like in great jazz – a story of the dignity of all people, bound together in kindness, and showing a humility in which voices are respected and blended for the delight of the audience
- One person who lived this tradition through trauma and terror was Martin Luther King Jr – 50 years ago today, he paid for his faithfulness with his life - In 1964, King spoke these words at the opening of the Berlin Jazz Festival, "Much of the power of our Freedom Movement in the United States has come from [jazz]. It has strengthened us with its sweet rhythms when courage began to fail. It has calmed us with its rich harmonies when spirits were down." – we still need that courage and calm – let's enjoy more inspiration from these sweet harmonies

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.