

Psalms

Come, Let Us Worship!

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! Psalm 95:6

Make a Joyful Noise To The Lord!

Psalm 100

Sunday July 31, 2022

Pastor Jody Cross

Introduction

Good morning RCC...Hey I am excited to be able to be with you once again after a few years, to see you, and reconnect with you and to open God's Word. Today I want to speak to you about worship.

Christ followers are worshipers – that is our purpose – why we were created. As worshipers, in relationship with God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, worship is what we have been called to do, as a way of life, all the time.

What we do personally, privately, and then live out publicly, gets poured out as an offering on the Lord's Day in corporate worship.

Why did Christ come? A.W Tozer writes,

“In order that he might make worshipers out of rebels; in order that he might restore us again to the place of worship we knew when we were first created.¹

We need to hear that - Through His Son, God is restoring us again to BE who we were MADE TO BE, and TO DO what we were MADE TO DO.

Q: What does it mean for us to do what we were made for – to worship our King? || That's what Psalm 100 is going to teach us this morning.

Please stand with me as we read Psalm 100 together. Hear now the Word of the Lord,

¹ A.W. Tozer, *Worship: the Missing Jewel*, as cited by Ron Man, <https://www.reformedworship.org/article/march-2011/rebel-worshiper>, accessed July 12, 2022

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100:1-5 ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord. “Thanks be to God.”

Psalm 100 has a purpose: It is a song for GIVING THANKS.

To summarize it: It calls believers and all nations to come before the Lord and bring Him an offering of joyful praise and overflowing gratitude that He deserves.

It is a song for those who are HAPPY IN GOD and directs our corporate worship to be characterized by joy, based upon who God is and what He’s done for us in Christ.

:: Right here we can stop and learn much about what Sunday’s should look like:

People who love Jesus, coming together to bring a joyful offering from their hearts to the One who rescued them from death and brought them to life.

That’s a place we want to be! A place of joy!

Where Christ is exalted.

Where God’s people are edified and

Where those who don’t know Jesus hear the good news of the Gospel.

Let me give some helpful context to this text: Psalm 100 is generally understood as the climax to a set of Psalms beginning at Psalm 93-99, all celebrating the Kingship of the Lord.

The structure of Psalm 100 is quite easy to see, - it is often divided into 2 parts, and has 2 parallel sections. Look at the text and see the 2 sections,

Vs. 1-3

Vs. 4-5

In each section there is a clear structure – a call to worship followed by the reason why.

Part 1. A call to worship (vs. 1-2) → The reason why (vs. 3)

Part 2. A call to worship (vs. 4) → The reason why (vs. 5)

DO THIS (imp.) because you KNOW THAT!

And turning it around, the knowledge of God demands a **RESPONSE** from God's people.

KNOW THIS (imp) and DO THAT!

That's how I want to approach this message, we will look at 4 things we are to **KNOW** about God, followed by the things we are to **DO** in the response of worship.

Why do we worship joyfully? Because of who He is:

Here are the 4 things God wants us to know about Him:

i. Praise Him Because He is God (vs. 3)

Know that the Lord, he is God! (Psalm 100:3 ESV)

There is something we need to know and believe about God – to be personally, intimately acquainted with - there is a God, and He is the reason for it all.

He is The LORD – YHWH. It is the sacred name of Israel's God, the one God, the relational, saving God, used when He revealed Himself to Moses at the burning bush.

YHWH means, *The Great I Am. The self-existent, eternal God.*

We know God by how He's revealed Himself and by what He's done. He is the God who brought His people out of Egypt, saved them from slavery and freed them to worship Him –. The LORD has come near to us to show us His grace and has freed us from the slavery of sin through His Son Jesus Christ.

:: At Mount Carmel, at the showdown between the Prophet Elijah and the 450 prophets of the false god Baal, the people were gathered to determine who was really God and worthy to be

served. || The people of Israel were wavering in their worship, not faithful to the Lord. Elijah said to them, *If the LORD is God, follow him* (1 Kings 18:21). Elijah called on the Lord, and God showed His power and sent down fire from heaven and consumed the sacrifice. Here's what happened,

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God." (1 Kings 18:39 ESV)

At that moment the people knew who was the One and only true God.

Q. Is that what you believe? Know that the LORD is God!

Our worship must be intelligent. || We can't worship what we don't know. || We need to know whom we worship and why. So, we read and study the Word of God to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.² Our worship will grow as we learn more of who our God is.

:: We can't praise the excellencies of someone we don't know. If however, I tell you about LeBron James, the NBA basketball legend, and his stats, his gaming winning shots, the records he holds, and if I take you to a game and you see it for yourself, you'd have no problem at all with talking about how amazing a player he is.

Church, know this:

- God is the eternal.
- He is the all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present One.
- This awesome, amazing, indescribable God is incomprehensible YET PERSONAL AND KNOWABLE. He has come near - He has revealed Himself in creation, all through history, by His prophets, in His Word and finally and completely in the person of His Son Jesus Christ, who is Emmanuel, God with us.

The LORD, He is God and so, we joyfully worship!

Psalm 100 then goes on to tell us that God is our Creator. Look at the next part of vs. 3.

² 2 Peter 3:18

ii. Praise Him Because He is our Creator

God is the maker of all things. He's the reason for it all. He made all things and He created us, out of the dust and breathed life into us.

It is he who made us, and we are his; (Psalm 100:3 ESV)

We are made in His image. There is an intelligent design displayed in every life and behind that an intelligent designer.

Let's go back to Psalm 139 from last week: God the all-powerful, life giving One, the Master craftsman, made you and He made me.

:: Our neighbors just came home recently with their beautiful new baby girl. They haven't stopped staring at her in amazement, that this little miracle is theirs. The response? Praise!

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:14 ESV)

God our powerful Creator who made us and loves us and constantly cares for us, is worthy of praise, from those He's created.

We exist and are alive because of God's will and creation. Our gender. Our personality. Our gifting. Our physicality – it is all His idea.

From start to finish we are God's design. We belong to Him. We owe everything to Him – He made us and He saved us and made us new in Christ. and look to Him in constant dependency for He gave us life and sustains our life.

We have been born once physically and we have been born again and made new creations in Christ and we are alive forever because of the power and grace of God.

The LORD made us, and not we ourselves. The LORD saved us, and not we ourselves. Every breath and heartbeat are a gift from God - we are dependent upon Him and accountable to Him.

Many people live, autonomously, apart from God, either because of ignorance, or because of active rebellion against Him.

Who are YOU to tell ME what to do? You're not the boss of me!

Saint Augustine states,

You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.³

We are not who, and what we are because of our own doing, but because of the goodness and grace of God. We are HIS WORKMANSHIP. The restless will remain until we've settled this.

God has made us for Himself. Should not the created one live in dependence upon, grateful to, and in praise of his or her Creator? Absolutely! What then is our rightful response of the created one to our Creator? || Joyful worship!

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. (Rev 4:11 ESV)

Believer in Christ KNOW your Maker, and the origin of your being, and the reason for your well-being and live a life of worshipful gratitude to the One who gave you life.

We are not our own. We have one ambition – TO LIVE FOR HIS GLORY. Our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

We renounce our former ambition in life, GLORY TO ME, to be our own boss, and instead pledge our total devotion to bring glory and honor to the God who made us in His image!

The LORD is our Creator and so, we joyfully worship!

Next, we find in the same verse, we,

³ <https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/ourheartisrestlessuntilitrestsinyou/> accessed July 14, 2022

3. Praise Him Because He Is Our Shepherd

The Psalms use a fascinating literary device of placing the Psalm's main point at the structural center of the Psalm. In Psalm 100, the structural centre is found in vs. 3. Let's read it and find the centre and understand its significance.

We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. (Psalm 100:3 ESV)

“His people” – is very centre of this Psalm.

God has made us to be in relationship with himself, and God has covenanted to be our God. He makes this covenant, and He keeps His Covenant as our God and our Shepherd.

Jesus the Good Shepherd said,

You did not choose me, but I chose you (John 15:16 ESV)

:: Why are we believers in Christ? Finding God WAS NOT OUR idea. He came looking for us. We have been found by God. Our Shepherd sought us lost sheep and rescued us and brought us home. It is our indescribable honour to have been chosen by God to be His own. ||

You have been rescued and are forever safe because in His sovereign grace God set His love on you, and chose you, and fully paid for all our sins with His precious blood.

What does our faithful Shepherd do? He feeds and leads us; He guides and protects us, He will bring us safely home.

As sheep gather around their shepherd to be fed, led and protected, in the same way we look to Jesus, needy creatures, who are fully dependent upon our Great Shepherd.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies (declare the praises) of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9 ESV)

Remember the mercy of God and amazing grace of the Gospel! It is good news for this moment, for each day, for each time we gather as the family of God, to worship. This fuels our gratitude and praise.

The LORD is our Shepherd, who laid down His life for us and so, we joyfully worship!

The final thing we need to know is found in vs. 5.

4. Praise Him Because He is Good

For the Lord is good; (Psalm 100:5 ESV)

If you were telling someone about the Lord and they asked, what is God like?

Answer: One word – GOOD.

This phrase sums up God's character. All God's perfections are included in this one descriptor, GOODNESS.

We His sheep, the objects of His love are cared for by a GOOD Shepherd. David cries out for God's worshipers to personally experience God's goodness as they trust in Him.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! (Psalm 34:8 ESV)

Q. How do you see God? || Unapproachable? Distant? Stingy? Harsh? Unpredictable?

What's God like?

Answer: Together - HE'S GOOD!

Q. Where do we see the goodness of God and His covenant love MOST FULLY ON DISPLAY? AT THE CROSS. God's love is a proven love, a demonstrated love. Christ in our place, the innocent for the guilty. The sinless for the sinner. His love has been ours from all eternity and will be ours forever. This is our forever reason to sing and praise Him, in response to His everlasting mercy.

How marvelous, how wonderful, and my song shall ever be

How marvelous, how wonderful is my Saviour's love for me.⁴

We give praise to God for who He is, and all He's made in creation, and in how He's redeemed us from the fall. All of this comes from his love.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.
(Psalm 100:5 ESV)

God is unceasingly generous. The Psalmist opens the big idea of God's goodness, by telling us about the **CONSTANCY OF GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS**.

The English phrase, "steadfast love", is a translation of the Hebrew word, *hesed*. This is a hugely significant Old Testament description of how God relates to His people. This Hebrew term means *God's covenant faithfulness, his unconditional, unfailing, loyal love*.

Forever is His committed love. Expand... It never fails... Won't disappoint...

God is not like us who make promises and forgets about them or break them and disappoint others. God always keeps His promise. You can fully trust Him and His Word. Not one of His promises have failed.⁵ He is faithful to all generations.

We can count on Him! All our life **HE HAS BEEN FAITHFUL**. All our life He has been **GOOD**. || God promises to take care of us and provide for us as a **GOOD SHEPHERD SHOULD**.

The **LORD**, ever loving and faithful always, is good, and so, we joyfully worship!

Here are the 4 reasons why we joyfully praise Him:

- The Lord is God
- He is our Creator
- He is our Shepherd
- The Lord is good

⁴ My Saviour's Love, Chas. H. Gabriel

⁵ Joshua 23:14

We have the privilege of knowing this God personally and be changed by Him powerfully. Martin Luther understood this Psalm as referring to Christ.

“This Psalm is a prophecy concerning Christ. It calls upon all to rejoice, to triumph, and to give thanks; to enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts and sanctuary with praise”⁶

Jesus Christ has come to reveal this God to humanity and to make a way home for a lost world.

Humanity has tried to find real, and lasting joy without God. This joy is for those only who put their faith in Jesus Christ. Who recognize they are not God – He is. Who admit they are not autonomous – they need Him. That they can’t run their own lives – they need the Great Shepherd to lead them. That they have no goodness in themselves and need the goodness of the Lord and His salvation. You can have a relationship with THIS GOD and be changed forever as you turn from your sin and put your trust in Him.

Application

2. How Do We Worship God?

You know THIS, these 4 things, so do THAT.

Our praise of God comes from knowing God.

The Psalm tells us about worshipers are to do. Let’s look at each of them briefly.

1. Come

Come into his presence (vs. 1)

- Come. (vs. 1 and the same word *enter* vs. 4) to worship and enjoy the presence of God.
- Come “from... to”. We prioritize the regular God-ordained gathering. It is the regular rhythm of life, and the highlight of the worshipper’s week!
- Come all of you TO worship THE LORD. To meet with Him. To Come FOR HIM and BECAUSE of Him. To Exalt Him. This is our heartbeat - believers gathering for the purpose of giving praise to God.

⁶ Luther, as cited in Plummer, p. 895

- Corporate gathering - edify. “We”. It’s about all of us. Ministering to the Lord and to one another. To love God and each other, as God has loved us.
- Come all of you, to GIVE and to RECEIVE. Pour out our hearts and receive God’s filling. We gather needy, hungry, and expectant. Expand...meet with living God, etc.

A good and great God is worshipped by a joyful people! Corporate worship is our taste now of the joy of God’s people when we will all stand before the Lord and worship him in very presence. What is enjoyed here will be continued and enjoyed perfectly in heaven.

2. Sing

Come into His presence singing! (Psalm 100:1)

- Come and be engaged in worship –It is the responsibility of each of us to participate.
 - This is our God-ordained manner of approach. Come! Sing! We come before the Lord singing, bringing the offering of our lips and hearts to Him.
 - Prime the pump. Start the song before you arrive (arrive singing!). If you take the dog for a walk (as I do on Sunday), sing on your walk. Listen to worship music on your way.
 - Sing joyfully (all of you – singers and non-singers, good voices, and squeaky ones)
 - The Worship Team are the prompters. You are the choir. God is the audience.
 - Sing joyfully TO THE LORD. And make some noise (shout for joy, raise a shout), and in so doing exalt Jesus Christ and encourage one another.
- Joy not in your circumstance or sleep, but in the Lord – God my exceeding joy (Ps. 43:4)
 - There is joy in His presence. In His presence is endless joy.
 - Spirit-filled people are people filled with joy.

A good and great God is worshiped by a joyful people. Joyful praise by a congregation saved people, is an anticipation of the worship of heaven.

3. Thank and Praise Him (Title - a Psalm of thanks!)

Give thanks to him; Bless his name! (Psalm 100:4 ESV)

For the most unworthy, the gates of heaven are opened. Therefore, we come before the Lord bringing to Him our sacrifice, an offering of thanksgiving. (Ps. 116:17)

Gratitude (not grumbling or complaining) is the default note of the saved person. Gratitude should be characteristic of our tone and approach in worship. Our personal and our corporate tone.

We are a thankful people TO GOD for who He is and for what He has done to save us in Christ. He loves you. And died for you. And made you His child and forgave all your sin and gave you a new heart, and made you a new creation, and gave you eternal life.

I will give thanks to you forever! (Ps. 30:12)

Being amazed at the grace and mercy of God in Jesus Christ, never gets old. It is never exhausted. From well of gratefulness, comes a joyful song. Give your offering of thanks and praise.

To bless God simply means to praise Him or to honor His name greatness and goodness.

We are bless the Lord at all times (Ps. 34:1), under all circumstances, for all God is and all He does. More than a feeling (good day, bad day). God unchanging is always worthy

4. Serve the Lord

Serve the Lord with gladness! (Psalm 100:2 ESV)

He is the Lord and He is good and He must be served. Love Him and serve Him with all your heart, and in all your life.

We are privileged to be servants of the Lord Most High. Misery? No, it's joy and freedom and peace, in being who, and doing what we were made for. We've been made to serve Him with gifts that He's given for the purposes He's determined, that are eternal.

Everyone has work to do. There's a place for you to serve. Serve the Lord, here in your church, at RCC, with the gifts and grace God has given you.

5. Seek the Lost

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth (Psalm 100:1 ESV)

This Psalm moves from the centre outwards – from the LORD, God calling, God inviting, to His people, then to all the earth, for people everywhere to worship Him. This is a global Psalm, a call to the nations, “Earth, join in this song of praise.”

This joy of the presence of God in worship is not just for God's people – it is an invitation extended to all the earth, to all who don't YET know and worship Him and more are to come and join us in the song of salvation.

Our services should be evangelistic as we proclaim the Gospel and as those who don't know Jesus see us loving Jesus and loving each other, and sense the presence of God, they are drawn in to know this God, who does these things in hearts.

All the earth is called to join the song of the redeemed and proclaim the goodness of the Lord. Psalm 86:9 states that,

All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.
(Psalm 86:9 ESV)

John Piper wrote,

Missions exists because worship doesn't.⁷

The church has been commissioned to take the good news into the entire world and make worshiping disciples of all nations. This is God's commission and what a glorious day when God's people gather at His throne,

“A great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb” (Revelation 7:9).

⁷ John Piper, Let The Nations Be Glad.

Conclusion

Corporate worship is a gift of God and has been the regular practice of God's people for 1000's of years. If OT worshipers were commanded to do THIS, because they know THAT - HOW MUCH MORE, should we, who live on the other side of the cross, and know the story of redemption, and have personally experienced new life in Jesus Christ, who we know was raised from the dead and is alive, and have seen the power of God,

HOW MUCH MORE ought our corporate worship to be a joyful people in God, making a joyful noise to the Lord, with thanksgiving and praise in our hearts, serving the Lord fervently, and seeking the salvation of the lost to join us in the song of the Saviour and His salvation?

Those who know Jesus - our God, Maker, Creator, good Shepherd and Saviour will worship Him with joy. We are those people. Redeemer, be this kind of church. By God's grace may it be so, more and more.

Let's pray...

give you time, silently to respond to the Lord...

Response

Here's how I want us to RESPOND this morning. It's RESPONSE TIME.

That's how corporate worship works, God speaks, and we listen and encountering Him, and then WE RESPOND – to who He is, to what He's said, to what He's pressing upon us.

We are going to respond to the Lord, 1. in prayer asking the LORD to help us to know who He is in a deeper and fuller and life transforming way.

And then we are going to respond to the Lord, 2. in singing, as the Psalm calls us to, together, in praise, and then in prayer for those who don't know Jesus to join in the song of the redeemed as they turn to Jesus in faith.

Prayer

Lord Our God, our Creator, our Shepherd, our Good God full of love and faithfulness, we want to know You more.

Lord we want to sing to you with a joyful, praising heart serving You and living to the glory of Your name.

Lord, I pray for _____, who doesn't know You, doesn't worship You. By Your grace would you save them?