

# **The Sound of Worship:**

## ***Enthroned on the Joyful Praise of His People***

**Texts: Psalm 33:1-5; Ephesians 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; 1 Chron 25:1-7**

**Psalm 22:1-5**

***To the Choirmaster: According to the Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.***

***<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? <sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. <sup>3</sup> Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. <sup>4</sup> In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. <sup>5</sup> To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.***

**Psalm 33:1-5**

***<sup>1</sup> Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. <sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! <sup>3</sup> Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. <sup>4</sup> For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. <sup>5</sup> He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.***

**Ephesians 5:18-19**

***And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,***

**Colossians 3:16-17**

***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.***

**1 Chronicles 25:1-7**

***David and the chiefs of the service also set apart for the service the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who prophesied with lyres, with harps, and with cymbals. The list of those who did the work and of their duties was: <sup>2</sup> Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asharelah, sons of Asaph, under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied under the direction of the king. <sup>3</sup> Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah,***

*Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with the lyre in thanksgiving and praise to the Lord. <sup>4</sup> Of Heman, the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, and Romamti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, Mahazioth. <sup>5</sup> All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer, according to the promise of God to exalt him, for God had given Heman fourteen sons and three daughters. <sup>6</sup> They were all under the direction of their father in the music in the house of the Lord with cymbals, harps, and lyres for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the order of the king. <sup>7</sup> The number of them along with their brothers, who were trained in singing to the Lord, all who were skillful, was 288.*

#### **Introduction:**

**This summer, we have been on a journey together to discover what God has said about the gathered worship of His people. There are four things I have observed about our journey:**

- A. God has changed the location of worship.***
- A. God as designed the manner by which worship is offered.***
- A. There are Biblical components prescribed for worship.***
- A. There are Spiritual means by which worship is offered.***

**This morning, I would like to focus our attention on one particular means by which God's people are called to render glad worship to God – the glad praise expressed through joy-filled singing!**

**In our time together today, I want us to let God's Word inform us about our congregational singing so that we will see and cherish it as a gracious means God has given us by which we worship Him that I hope we will never assume, presume, or take for granted.**

- I. The Biblical Injunction to Sing in Worship (Psalm 100; Eph 5.19)**
  - From the beginning of our relationship with God, singing has been an important component of how we express our admiration, praise, and gratitude toward Him.**
  - The Bible goes beyond merely recording that God's people sang in thankful worship; the Scripture actually commands us to sing when we come together to worship.**
- I. The Value of Congregational Singing in Worship (Psalm 33:1)**

***Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.***

- A. *It is a natural expression for praising God together.*
- A. *It is a powerful aid to Corporate Prayer out of a united heart.*
- A. *It is an important component of Scriptural Prophecy that we should rehearse and affirm together (Col. 3:16).*
- I. **The Content of Such Singing in Worship (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)**
  - **Scripture teaches us that our singing must be sacred in nature, scriptural in content, and spiritual in origin.**
  - A. *We are reminded to sing Psalms.*
  - A. *We are exhorted to sing Hymns.*
  - A. *We are commanded to sing Spirit-given Songs.*

**But what does this kind of singing actually look like?**

**I. A Biblical Model of Such Singing (Psalm 33:1-5)**

*Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.<sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!<sup>3</sup> Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.<sup>4</sup> For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.<sup>5</sup> He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.*

- A. *The Exhortation to Sing Praise to God (vv. 1-2).*
- A. *The Motivation for Singing Praise to God (v 1).*
- A. *The Manner of Singing Praise to God (vv. 2-3).*
- A. *The Content of Singing Praise to God (vv 4-5).*
- A. *The Nature of our Song – “New” (v 3).*

**Conclusion: *How it works for our congregation***

- 1. Theologically Accurate, Biblically Faithful, and Spiritually Useful**
- 2. Congregationally accessible**
- 3. Spiritually Memorable**
- 4. Appropriately Reflective of the multi-generational composition of our church.**
- 5. Appreciative of the rich and full hymnody God has and continues to give to His Church.**
- 6. Lovingly Considerate of the sensibilities of the whole body.**

**So, what can you and I do to enhance our congregational singing?**

- **When you come to church, participate intentionally, and sing joyfully with appropriate energy when we sing as a congregation.**
- **Think deeply about the truth you are singing about God; pray personally as you sing to God.**
- **Create intentional spaces in your life that you fill with Christian music and spiritual hymnody and protect those spaces and enjoy those times.**
- **Incorporate Christian hymnody into your daily personal devotional time with God.**
- **Stretch your musical familiarity - What are the 100 hymns of the past you want to make sure you know? What are the 100 new or modern hymns you want to learn?**