

The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

Sunday August 2nd

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on



With A Song In My Heart?

Gareth Malone came to prominence on television when he set out to bring people together to sing. He invited, cajoled and urged all sorts of unlikely people in all sorts of unlikely places – military wives, hospital staff, school pupils and industry personnel to come together as choirs. The programmes caught the public imagination and enthusiasm and resulted in the formation of amateur choirs across the country.

But, of course, you don't have to be in a choir to sing. And, even better, you don't need a good singing voice in order to warble on your own! In the privacy of your own home, and especially your shower, you can sing anything in any key at any volume.

If you were a fly on the wall in our home you might occasionally hear even me give vent to some popular song from the 1930s-50s, including my all-time favourite, *September Song*. (Don't tell anyone and don't ask why but Joyce Sutton and I once serenaded a couple of Jelly Tots mums with a rendition of *Oh, you beautiful doll!* Is there anyone out there who remembers that number?)

However, did you realize that there are good reasons to sing, other than to scare the neighbours?

Singing actually boosts our immune system, improves our sleep by helping to stop snoring and sleep apnea, lowers stress levels and improves mental alertness. It is also a natural anti-depressant, releasing endorphins, the feel-good brain chemical that makes you feel happy. And the extra good news is that all of these desirable effects do not depend upon what the singing sounds like!*

But, of course, these considerations are not generally in the mind of anyone singing. People sing for a variety of reasons: because they are happy: because they need to give expression to their feelings, whether joyful, sad or aspirational: because they have something to sing about.

How much more then should Christians sing! Indeed Christians are characterised as a singing people for throughout the whole of the Bible the call to, the impetus to and the practice of singing is written large. And the reason is clear: our motivation is far deeper and meaningful than singing for any other cause. It finds its genesis and its fulfilment in God.

Listen to the delighted invitations of the psalmists, "Oh come, let us sing to the LORD, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" Psalm 95:1 and "Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD all the earth!" Psalm 96:1.

*Gleaned with thanks from takelessons.com

Why such eagerness and enthusiasm? **Because of who God is** - the LORD, that is, JHWH.

This is the personal name of God, spelling out that he is the all-sufficient One but also the One who binds and commits himself in an unbreakable relationship with his people! And this is **our** God!

But we sing, too, **because of what God has done**. "He drew me up from the pit of destruction,...set my feet upon a rock,...He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God." exults the writer of Psalm 40:2-3. And in heaven the Church of God falls down before the Lamb, the Lord Jesus, "And they sang a new song, saying, Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,..." Revelation 5:9

No wonder, then, that we love to sing God's praises!

So what are we going to do in this pandemic era when, for good health reasons, singing in church services is not allowed? Services will certainly be different but there are things we can do to ensure that the worship that can be expressed in singing is not lost. If the hymn tunes are played we can follow the words and think through them as we do so. Or we can audibly say the hymns together, concentrating on the words. This could actually be beneficial because we then can't fall into the trap of just being immersed in a well-loved tune rather than the sentiments enshrined in the words.

Out of the usual it may be but Paul has a salutary word that reminds us of what is really important. He tells us that **true** worship involves, "...singing and making melody to the Lord **with your heart**..." Ephesians 5:19 ESV. It's what's going on in there that's vital.

So as you return to a rather different kind of church service will you come with a song – in your heart?

Dennis R. Read



Aug. 19, 1908

Gunning King

Parson (discovering odd-job man working at the chapel). 'Why, Giles, I was not aware that you cut the grass for the dissenters too?'

Giles. 'Well, your reverence, I does sometimes; but I don't use the same scythe!'

THE NAMES OF GOD Word Search

Can you find the 21 different names given to God using these OT Bible references? If more than one name is used from a passage, the number is in brackets. Instead of YHWH we have used Jehovah i.e. Jehovah Jireh, Jehovah Nissi, Jehovah Shalom, Jehovah Shammah, Jehovah Rapha, Jehovah Tsidkenu. What an amazing God we have!

Galatians 4:6 (2), Revelation 1:8, Daniel 7:9, Isaiah 9:6 (5), Genesis 1:1-3, Gen 17:1-2, Isaiah 54:5 (4), Gen 22:14, Exodus 17:15, Exodus 15:26, Judges 6:24, Ezekiel 48:35, Jeremiah 23:6, Daniel 9:25, Psalm 80:1



Hymns, Prayers and Bible Readings.

Psalm 19v1-4

The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows His handiwork.
2 Day unto day utters speech,
And night unto night reveals knowledge.
3 There is no speech nor language
Where their voice is not heard.
4 Their line has gone out through all the
earth,
And their words to the end of the world.

1 The heavens declare God's glory,
Their grandeur tells His worth;
By day and night, though silent,
Their witness rings the earth.
The sun, a radiant bridegroom,
Steps forth with eager feet
To race across the heavens
And flood the world with heat.

2 Your law, O LORD, is perfect,
Its power revives the soul;
What joy and light come streaming
From truth so pure and whole!
Your everlasting statutes
Impart a holy fear:
Far sweeter they than honey,
Than finest gold more dear.

3 They warn of mortal dangers
And lead to great reward;
Keep me from hidden errors
And wilful sins, O LORD.
So may my speech and thinking
Find favour in Your sight,
My Rock and my Redeemer,
My Lord, my soul's true light.

Psalm 19, David G. Preston
© D.G. Preston/Jubilate Hymns

The heavens declare the glory of God:

David looked to the heavens – not the spiritual heaven where God is enthroned, but the heavens of the blue sky and the night sky – and he clearly saw **the glory of God** declared.

i. He could see it in the blue sky, with the glory of the sun and clouds and the beauty of sunrises and sunsets.

ii. He could see it in the night sky, with the brightness of the moon, the awe of the starry sky and the cloudy spread of the distant galaxies.

iii. These together – with their size, their awe, their grandeur – shouted to David and all who would see, “The God who created all this is glorious, and this is evidence of His glory.”

- He is glorious in His size, having created something so big.
- He is glorious in His engineering, having created something that works together so well.
- He is glorious in His artistry, having created something so beautiful.
- He is glorious in His goodness and kindness, having created something for all humanity to see.

From Enduring Word Commentary

Prayers

PROCLAIMING GOD'S PRAISE

From Isaiah 23 and 24

Lord Almighty, You bring low all pride and vain glory, You humble the famous in the earth; You stretch out Your hand over the sea and make the nations tremble: to You we raise our voices, and shout for joy.

We acclaim your majesty:

We give You praise,

We exalt Your name.

From the ends of the earth we proclaim:

**Glory to the righteous One,
who reigns among us for ever! Amen.**

Lord of the universe and leader of Your people, give wisdom to all those who exercise authority. Teach them to put the good of the many before the greed of the few. Help them to love truth and to hate falsehood and corruption, and, above all, urge them to remember that the one who would be greatest must learn to be the servant of all; for Christ's sake. Amen.

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in His Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of St. Chrysostom