

# Gettysburg United Methodist Church

July 22, 2020

## Psalm 96

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the  
peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be  
praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.
- 6 Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his  
sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the  
peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his  
name;  
bring an offering, and come into his  
courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.
- 10 Say among the nations, "The Lord is  
king!  
The world is firmly established; it shall  
never be moved.  
He will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth  
rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

- 12 let the field exult, and everything in  
it.  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for  
joy
- 13 before the Lord; for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.



## Meditation

Read Ephesians 5:15-20; Colossians 3:15-17

I think music is one of God's greatest gifts to us. Music speaks from the heart of God directly to the depths of our being. Music is a powerful vehicle for our praise and worship as it brings us into the presence of God's love and glory.

Music has always been essential to worship. In Hebrew worship Psalms were sung to God, and instruments were used to praise him (see Psalm 150, for example). When God delivered Israel from Egypt their response was a song of praise (Exodus 15:1-21). King David set aside a special group of people to provide music for worship (1 Chronicles 25:1-31). In the New Testament we're told to "be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Alleluia!

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*(Continued from page 1)*

God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Eph. 5:18b-20) And someday music will be central to our worship in heaven as well (see Rev. 5:6-14 for example).

Music draws us into God’s presence. It provides a foretaste of God’s glory and majesty. It helps us to feel God’s love and compassion. Music involves our whole being in an experience of God’s holy love. It touches our minds and intellects, it reaches our hearts and our emotions, it involves our bodies as we clap our hands or even dance in God’s presence. God uses the grace of music to enable us to experience his love and glory in body, soul, and spirit.

In the same way, music expresses our worshipful response to God. As we sing and make melody to the Lord (or even make a “joyful noise” unto him) we express our love for God and our awe in his presence. Our minds express our understanding of God, our hearts express our joy and love for God, or bodies express our complete dedication to God. Music lifts our worship up to God not only in church, but every day as we listen to music and sing his song in our hearts. We may not all be able to play an instrument and we may not all feel comfortable singing, but we all can listen and praise God in our listening.

Music brings healing and peace to souls in turmoil, especially in times of trouble. When King Saul was tormented by an evil spirit, David played music for Saul on his lyre. The music calmed Saul’s soul and banished the troubling spirit (1 Samuel 16:14-23). When we face turmoil and stress in our own lives, God uses music to bring healing and peace to our hearts. Listen to calming music, or bring to mind hymns or songs that are especially meaningful to you. Make time to find a quiet spot and take some deep breaths, slow down, listen to the silence, and then listen even more deeply for whatever song God puts in your heart. Allow music to renew your sense of God-given freedom and peace.

Music helps us remember and understand spiritual things. It’s been said that Methodists sing their theology. Our music focuses on many of the central beliefs of our faith. Think of “Amazing Grace” or “Awesome God” or “The Old Rugged Cross” or “Joy to the World”. We don’t need a degree in theology to sing God’s truth in our hearts.

God knows that everyone is different, so he speaks to us through a variety of musical languages. Maybe you are moved by rock, or country gospel, or metal, or traditional hymns, or contemporary Christian, or jazz, or rap, or bluegrass, or even Gregorian chant-- God speaks to us in the musical language he knows will resonate with our souls. As long as the words honor him all are equally valid and meaningful.

There’s much more we could say about God’s gift of music, but it’s much better to listen to music than to talk about it. Set aside some time today to experience God through music, and allow the Holy Spirit to touch the depths of your soul.

Pastor Rick



# Praise the Lord!

## Prayer

Lord God, your joy is the song of my heart, and your love is the theme of my life. Fill me anew with your Holy Spirit, that I may always dwell in the center of your joy and share your love with all people.

I pray, Lord, for the crisis we face as a world and as a nation. Grant us wisdom to overcome this pandemic and courage to do what is right. Help us to be your voice for freedom and justice in America and in the world. Enable us to love others as you have loved us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Bible Studies

Our Wed. Bible Study has resumed on ZOOM from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Please contact Pastor Rick for a link to the weekly Zoom meetings.

Our Thursday Bible Study continues to meet at the church from 9:30 to 11:00 am, with masks and social distancing required.

Both groups are studying 1 John.

## Crisis Hotlines and Helplines

During these trying times, it's good to be aware of some of the positive resources available in our community. Many people are under extraordinary stress because of the current situation. Please feel free to share this information with others as you feel appropriate.

CONTACT Helpline: (800) 932-4616

Wellspan Behavioral Health Helpline (Philhaven):  
(800) 932-0359

TrueNorth Crisis Line: (866) 325-0339

Substance Abuse Hotline: (800) 662-4357

Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233

Adams-Hanover Crisis Information Referral Hotline:  
(717) 632-4900

## Weekly Prayer Concerns

Every week a list of recent prayer concerns will be included with this mailing. To add someone to the list, please call the church office.

This week's list (as of 7/21/2020) is:

Genny Reaver—in the Rehab unit of Chambersburg Hospital recovering from a heart attack and minor stroke

Barbara Evans—home from Gettysburg Hospital

Rodney Truscott

Genny Reaver's address is

WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital  
Room 404 Rehab  
112 N 7th St.  
Chambersburg, PA 17201



## Worship Services

Our regular Sunday Worship Services continue at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, following guidelines that are available on our website.

Sunday worship video services are uploaded to our GUMC Facebook page every week in time for Sunday morning.

Sunday School has not yet reopened.

# HYMN

## *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*

*Fred Pratt Green, Charles V. Stanford*

### Verse 1

When in our music God is glorified,  
And adoration leaves no room for pride,  
It is as though the whole creation cried  
Alleluia!

### Verse 2

How often, making music we have found  
A new dimension in the world of sound,  
As worship moved us to a more profound  
Alleluia!

### Verse 3

So has the Church in liturgy and song,  
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue,  
Alleluia!

### Verse 4

And did not Jesus sing a Psalm that night  
When utmost evil strove against the light?  
Then let us sing for whom he won the fight:  
Alleluia!

### Verse 5

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always  
Alleluia!

CCLI Song # 1795193

Fred Pratt Green | Harriet Ziegenhals, © Words: 1972 Hope Publishing Company

Music: 1972, 1989 Hope Publishing Company

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Fred Pratt Green was born near Liverpool, England, in 1903. He died in 2000. He was an ordained British Methodist minister who served many parishes in the north and south of England. During his career he published several books of poetry, and wrote over 300 hymns and spiritual songs after he retired from active ministry. A number of his hymns are included in our hymnal. Sir Charles V. Stanford (1852-1924) was born in Dublin, Ireland. He studied music in England and Germany, taught music at the Royal College of Music, and became professor of music at Cambridge.

Stanford originally wrote this tune in 1904 as a setting for the hymn *For All the Saints*. The tune was supplanted by another tune written by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1906, and was rarely sung until John Wilson asked Fred Pratt Green to write a new text specifically for it in 1972. The text speaks of the power of music in worship, and alludes to Psalm 150 in the final stanza. It may be found as number 68 in *The United Methodist Hymnal*.

We greatly appreciate your continued faithful donations to GUMC during this time of change and crisis. Your faithfulness has enabled us to continue to pay all of our expenses, and we are very grateful for your continued generosity.

Gettysburg United Methodist Church  
30 West High Street  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
[www.gettysburgumc.org](http://www.gettysburgumc.org)

717 334-3032  
[gettysburgumc@gmail.com](mailto:gettysburgumc@gmail.com)