

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 13) – July 31, 2022

*“For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.”*

–Psalm 100:4–

Psalm 100. It’s one of the shorter psalms in the Bible, but that hasn’t affected its impact on Christians. The psalmist calls us to worship God, making a joyful noise and praising with song. “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth” (v. 1).

As one who loves nature and the outdoors, I find myself admiring the work of our Creator. Have you ever noticed how God’s creation seems to praise God, making its own joyful noise? When I visited Niagara Falls years ago, I can still remember the loud sound of rushing water, falling over the rocks. Hiking along the Superior National Hiking Trail in Northeast Minnesota, I would pass by small streams and babbling brooks. The sound of the wind in the trees, causing leaves and branches to sway and hum. Birds singing – especially the first few birds that emerge after winter – their sweet songs, each unique. It really does seem as though all of creation has a way of making a joyful noise.

We certainly don’t need a reason to make a joyful noise, praising and worshiping God. The verse above summarizes it nicely for us. God is good. His mercy is everlasting. His faithful endures (v. 4). God has every good reason to give up on humanity. For millennia God’s people have sinned and fallen short of his glory. But what about God? Did God ever give up on humanity? Definitely not. As a mom of three kids ages ten and under, I am truly astounded by God’s level of patience. Not only has not given up on sinful human beings, but he has also done everything he can to make the relationship perfect. His mercy is unending. His faithfulness endures for all eternity. His love is unending.

God saw that humanity was always going to be broken. And just when it would’ve made sense to give up, he didn’t. In fact, he chose to come down from above, to be born as one of us humans, to live an earthly life with all its heartache and suffering. Indeed, God’s love is a love like no other. And it is the beating heart of reasons to praise God with thanksgiving, making a joyful noise unto him. May we join all of God’s creation singing aloud our praises unto him!

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 13) – July 31, 2022

*“For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.”*

–Psalm 100:4–

Psalm 100. It’s one of the shorter psalms in the Bible, but that hasn’t affected its impact on Christians. The psalmist calls us to worship God, making a joyful noise and praising with song. “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth” (v. 1).

As one who loves nature and the outdoors, I find myself admiring the work of our Creator. Have you ever noticed how God’s creation seems to praise God, making its own joyful noise? When I visited Niagara Falls years ago, I can still remember the loud sound of rushing water, falling over the rocks. Hiking along the Superior National Hiking Trail in Northeast Minnesota, I would pass by small streams and babbling brooks. The sound of the wind in the trees, causing leaves and branches to sway and hum. Birds singing – especially the first few birds that emerge after winter – their sweet songs, each unique. It really does seem as though all of creation has a way of making a joyful noise.

We certainly don’t need a reason to make a joyful noise, praising and worshiping God. The verse above summarizes it nicely for us. God is good. His mercy is everlasting. His faithful endures (v. 4). God has every good reason to give up on humanity. For millennia God’s people have sinned and fallen short of his glory. But what about God? Did God ever give up on humanity? Definitely not. As a mom of three kids ages ten and under, I am truly astounded by God’s level of patience. Not only has not given up on sinful human beings, but he has also done everything he can to make the relationship perfect. His mercy is unending. His faithfulness endures for all eternity. His love is unending.

God saw that humanity was always going to be broken. And just when it would’ve made sense to give up, he didn’t. In fact, he chose to come down from above, to be born as one of us humans, to live an earthly life with all its heartache and suffering. Indeed, God’s love is a love like no other. And it is the beating heart of reasons to praise God with thanksgiving, making a joyful noise unto him. May we join all of God’s creation singing aloud our praises unto him!