

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!” (Psalm 100:1-2)

Do you like to sing? Now, I know that not everyone does. Whether or not you have a big, beautiful voice or a small, squeaky, off-beat one, it all sounds beautiful to the Lord. The psalmist directs us to a song that’s bold, loud and immediate. **“All the earth”** is invited to participate in this worship which is solely focused and centered on the Lord.

The psalms are songs. They are hymns of praise in prayer-like form that the people of God use to call attention to His wonderful deeds of mercy and love. They are prayers that plead for forgiveness and strength. They are compassionate prayers that ascend to the heavenly throne.

We sing because of God’s love shown to us in His Son, Jesus Christ. *Romans 8:31-32, “If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”* God has given us everything we need for life and salvation with Him. Now, we are called to join in an anthem of praise and to invite others to hear that Good News as well. We want them to sing the same song of salvation as we do!

If we look at ourselves, our life, our pulls and pressures, it’s easy to

rationalize and justify neglecting intense and continual praise of the Lord. But the psalm writer moves all those distractions aside.

The Lord Himself is our reason to praise. He is Yahweh—the Lord—the God of the psalmist and the Father of Jesus Christ. He is the Lord of all the earth, the One who created the times and the seasons for our comfort and pleasure. He is the One who gives us the summer sunshine; the One who made all those beautiful places we visit these lazy summer days.

Yahweh—the Lord—is our creator. This we know! Now, this word “know” in Hebrew runs far deeper than merely having heard a particular name on a previous occasion. For example, we might make the comment, “Oh, yeah, I *know* such and such” because we’ve casually met them before. The thought that the psalmist has in mind here is that we “know” Yahweh because we can attach our entire personal

well-being to Him. He has an exclusive claim on us because He is our Creator. We did not come into being by chance. We are not the victims of blind fate, and our existence is not senseless, though at times our hearts may feel it is.

God made you, knows you, and provides for your needs in this life. The time away, the friends and family you’re enjoying this summer, and the means to pay for your trip are all gifts from Him. The protection as you travel through the air or on busy highways is by His hand.

Our distracted summer life in this affluent land is a real faith test, isn’t it? Like all tests, it carries with it the risk that we could stumble and fall. But under God, it can be one of those tests that is almost like doing spiritual push-ups; it can be a hurdle that makes us stronger and more devoted than we were before.

God give us the grace to crawl into the words of Psalm 100, to make those words our own, and to blast our praise to the Lord, whose kindness never ends!

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