



Calvary Presbyterian Church
Sunday, JUNE 18, 2023
GRADS & DADS SUNDAY

NOISY JOY:

Reflections on Psalm 100
Rev. Eyde Mabanglo

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 100:1-5 (The Voice)

Raise your voices; make a beautiful noise to the Eternal, all the earth.

²*Serve the Eternal gladly; enter into His presence singing songs of joy!*

³*Know this: the Eternal One Himself is the True God. He is the One who made us; we have not made ourselves; we are His people, like sheep grazing in His fields.*

⁴*Go through His gates, giving thanks; walk through His courts, giving praise. Offer Him your gratitude and praise His holy name.*

⁵*Because the Eternal is good, His loyal love and mercy will never end, and His truth will last throughout all generations.*

SERMON

Six years ago, my daughter graduated from Centreville HS in Centreville, Virginia. When they threw up their caps, I captured the moment in slow motion on my phone...so many kids...so many proud parents...so many exhausted teachers...so many Carolina blue mortar boards flying straight into the air!

It was like a Golden Buzzer moment on America's Got Talent.
It was like the Gatorade cooler being dumped on an unexpected coach.

It was like a thousand couples kissing, once the pastor finally said: **You may kiss the bride!**

When I attended a Husky game...overwhelmed by the fervor
It seemed like the energy was like an expression of worship
I wondered if this was the kind of joy that the scriptures try to describe for us

Fervor is passion, intensity, emotional energy
Seems like fervor has an audible quality—if not words, then shouts of joy
Whoo-hoo, ah yay,

This is the kind of noisy joy I feel and hear when I read Psalm 100!

The psalm comes from a collection of psalms...called Yahweh Malak "The Lord Reigns"

Psalm 100 includes Seven commands (imperative verbs)
Shout—be vocal as to share with the world
Worship—includes service...they go together...a response...for others
Come—before God...literally before his face...gaze...adore...expose self
Know—life-long affirmation, a relationship that is intimate and infinite
Enter—access, the gates are open not just to us but to all
Give Thanks—so much rationale to offer warm gratitude
Praise Him—because we are his, we are beloved, and his love is expansive

Chiasmic Structure emphasizes or relationship with God as that of knowing...
KNOW is at the center of the poem.
Reminding us of that we already know and that is that we are already loved.

God's love for us and ours for him is a Knowing Love (as like a Father's Love/parental love)
...there is nothing we can do that will make God love us more or less than God loves us right now.

And the Good News is that this is an inclusive love...meant for those beyond the Hebrew traditions, beyond Jerusalem, beyond our understanding...a love that is meant for every tribe and every nation—every man, woman, every father, mother, and child.

We are to respond with every ounce of our being...
We are to live out of appreciation for life and God's knowing presence...

Psalm 100 is tied to the New Testament in many ways.

I'm reminded of the many times Jesus asks us to love...to lift of the broken-hearted, to be mindful of arrogance, pride, and judgement, to be wary of those times that we think of ourselves better than others, to see how God heart is so much more expansive than we know, and to be warned that there is a thief, a pharisee, a judas inside all of us and God loves us anyway.

This good news could make someone very noisy—with either the joy of a household for a lost one returning home or with the resentment of a sibling that scoffs at the party that is thrown for everybody by a loving father.

Noisy Joy (about God's love and Christ's reign in our hearts) is service.

Noisy Joy (about God's love and Christ's reign in our hearts) is evangelism.

Noisy Joy (about God's love and Christ's reign in our hearts) is love out loud.

Noisy Joy (about God's love and Christ's reign in our hearts) is worship!

Worship in Heaven is described in Revelation 7:9-10

⁹After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they were shouting with a great roar, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!"

Worship in Heaven (Excerpts from Revelation 4)

Day after day and night after night they keep on saying,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty—the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come."

And they lay their crowns before the throne and say,

¹¹"You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased."

I imagine every person wearing a crown, taking it off and throwing it up in the air at the same time. As they recognize that they do not reign over any one or any place, but that God reigns!

The crowns are thrown because there is only one who wears a crown. And as they are tossed, I imagine capturing that moment in slow motion!

Tomorrow is Juneteenth...

On "Freedom's Eve," or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the [Thirteenth Amendment](#) did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "[Juneteenth](#)," by the newly freed people in Texas. SOURCE: Smithsonian

Friends, GOOD NEWS is meant to be shared!

Imagine the importance of this day for those who did not know, or could not enjoy, their freedom...imagine the noisy joy that welled up within those who were still enslaved years after the Emancipation Proclamation was published.

My Paraphrase of Psalm 100

Do the wave everybody!!!

Get loud with an exuberant shout to our true God

Our worship is meant to be loud

and especially as it is an intentional way to share the good news with the whole earth!

Pour out your body and soul and spirit with profound gladness.

Go ahead and Get in God's face and sing your joy!

Let God know that you are glad!

Let the whole world know that you know pure joy!

Proclaim that God is God and nobody else is our God!

We belong to God. We are His.

He has made us all his people and he looks over us like a caring shepherd.

Tell the world that it isn't about who you are, but about whose you are.

All belong to God already,

we are blessed already and we respond with our lives.

We have all inclusive, full access to God's back stage -

we come in with starstruck gratitude.

So we thank him and proclaim all his goodness back to him

and to all of our human siblings!

Inclusion has always been inerrant according to God's incarnate word.

For God is good! all the time!

All the time, God is good!

His womb love is eternal

And will abide with every nation

And every tribe for eternity.

This love is steadfast and cascades to every generation.

Let the whole world Live this Love out loud!

May it be so. May it be so.

