

**29<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

**Gratitude**

**Bible Reading: Psalm 100**

Summary: This message from Psalm 100 intends to show how great and awesome God is in our lives, therefore we should show our gratefulness towards him.

The Psalm actually tells us to shout it out!

Many of us were brought up being told to do just the opposite: “Keep your voices down.” “Shh”, “Don’t raise a ruckus.” Maybe you’ve told your kids—or the kids in your Sunday School class—the same thing.

But when it comes to worshiping Yahweh, Psalm 100 claims that it’s very appropriate to turn up the volume.

These five verses roar with praise, employing a series of imperative verbs:

- Shout v1,
- Worship/Serve v2,
- Enter v4),
- Praise v4,
- Know v3

Taken together, these commands compel the community to participate in singing in a grand procession into God’s temple.

Throughout Christian history, this psalm has been employed to summon the community together in robust praise. A famous example is Ralph Vaughan Williams’s arrangement of “The Old One Hundredth Psalm Tune,” the processional hymn for the coronation service of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey in 1953. It’s a big, bold, and stunningly beautiful piece of music well worth a listen. It is Hymn No 6 in our Churches of Christ Hymnal

When the choir enters singing “*All creatures that on earth do dwell,*” one gets a sense of the type of ritual that Psalm 100 depicts. A cathedral full of voices along with organ, brass, and percussion have a remarkable effect. As the procession moves forward, our emotions are carried along as well. The psalm and Vaughn Williams’s arrangement of it witness the power of sound and movement working together to glorify God. You can get it on YouTube..

In fact, Psalm 100 ranks second only to the 23rd Psalm in popularity. It’s brief, concrete and straightforward; Plus, it gives us specific direction as to what God would have us to do:

If I could take anything away from this passage of scripture it would be these few things:

## **1. JOY**

*“Shout for Joy to the Lord, all the earth.” V1*

Our lives are meant to be a joyful call to God. God wants us to get excited about who He is. We don’t have any problems shouting at a football or basketball games, but we very seldom show the same excitement when we raise our voice in praise to our God.

When we come together, and especially today after the months of isolation, we are to share a smile and share the joy of the Lord. Wintley Phipps said, “If you’re happy in the Lord notify your face.”

## **2. GLADNESS**

*“Worship/Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before with joyful songs” v2*

I have observed at times when people go to church (not at Montrose) it appears almost like they are going to a funeral service.

The truth is – we need to come together like we are coming into a resurrection service. My Lord has risen from the dead. We need to celebrate that fact. Because you see:  
*We serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today;  
We know that He is living, whatever men may say;  
We see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,  
And just the time we need Him, He's always near.  
He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me, along life's narrow way.  
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart.*

Yes, this Psalm is a good reminder that when we come before the Lord – we ought to do it with gladness.

### **3. DEPENDENCE**

*“Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and we are his; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” V3*

This verse shows three roles of God:

- First: God is LORD.  
We are to make Him ruler, master, orchestrator of our lives. God is God, and we are NOT. God told Moses, ‘I AM That I AM’” Exodus 3:14 Brothers & Sisters, you have no more control over God than you do the weather. God is God and we are not.
- Secondly: God is CREATOR  
If you create something, you are greater than what you have created. You have every right over that which you have made. The Word of God Reminds Us:  
*“It is He who has made us, and not ourselves, we are his.”*
- Finally: God is our SHEPHERD  
*“We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.”* God guides us to the place of security and rest. *“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul.”* Psalm 23:1-3

Someone has rightly said;  
If we are created, He is the Creator.  
If we are sheep, He is our Shepherd.  
If we enter His courts, He is our King.  
If we serve Him, He is our Master.  
I am dependent on God.  
-He created even the air that I breathe.  
-He knows every hair on my head.  
-He knows every beat of my heart.  
I thank HIM for being God

**Song: Sons of Korah – Psalm 100**

### **4. THANKFULNESS**

You can't give thanks unless you are thankful.

*“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name” v4*

Thanksgiving is what flows out of a thankful HEART. Brothers & Sisters we need to be thankful to God for what He has done for us. He woke us up this morning, started us on our way. Woke us up in our right mind. Allowed us to see the dawning of a new day. He has seen us through hard and challenging days. He is worthy of our praise!

## 5. GRATITUDE

*"For the Lord is good; and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. V5*

Three reasons to be grateful:

- a) The Lord is GOOD
- b) The Lord's love endures forever
- c) The Lord's truth continues through all generations

In Romans chapter eleven Paul is giving thanks and praise to God when he writes:

*"Everything comes from him; Everything happens through him; Everything ends up in him. Always glory! Always praise! Romans 11:36 (MSG)*

Our praise, our thanksgiving and our worship needs to be directed to God. We need to be thankful for what He has done.

### **Closing:**

It is my prayer that as we come out of lockdown, as we enter the Christmas season that in a new way we will demonstrate our gratefulness:

- with joy and gladness,
- being thankful to God
- with a heart dependent on Him.

In this world we experience less, in Christ we experience MORE than we can ask or think! Where you might ask does the world offer less? Or how does the world offer less? Well:

Our phones are wireless  
|Our cars are keyless  
Our food is fatless  
And tires are tubeless  
We are in a world where tools are cordless  
Where youth are jobless  
And leaders are shameless  
A time where relationships are meaningless  
And peoples attitudes are careless  
And babies are fatherless  
And the Government seems Useless  
And an age when the MASSES feel HELPLESS

Just know that when we are Thankless the world just seems Hopeless.

But I know a God who can turn less than, into greater than.

God said that Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Great is the Lord and Greatly to Praised  
For he has done marvellous things  
(You don't believe me look in the mirror)

We may have trouble in our lives and in the World but I know we serve a God that can do exceeding and abundantly above all that you could ask or imagine.

*“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. - Romans 8:18”*

In a world where Everything is becoming LESS my prayer is that our Hope in God is -  
Endless