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West Valley Presbyterian Church

Make A Joyful Noise To The Lord!

Psalms 100:1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

The Hebrew word “to break out in joyful sound” is the word...

Patsach- (say it together) to break out (in joyful sound), break forth into joy, make a loud noise.

This word indicates a deep passion, a feeling of love for God. When we praise God it has to come from our hearts. It can't be put on in a superficial way like a performance. Our true praise of God has to come from in here...from the depths of our being...

A teacher/musician once said that...

To play a wrong note is insignificant - BUT to play without passion is inexcusable!

When we come to church and praise God...do PATSACH ...that means with passion...

We are told to - **Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.**

To me, that sounds pretty much like using all of who we are ...

Now I suppose that we could do that silently...in our hearts...in quiet reverence...there is a place for that. It's kind of what Presbyterians are used to doing.

But let's think about this some more. Usually, when people get inspired and excited they become animated...they make a sound with their voice.

Maybe they shout hurray, or declare WOW!, or start singing, or shouting for joy.

I wanted to show you a video of people winning the lottery – but I don't have time. But I am sure you have seen them clutching the winning ticket and screaming...weeping sometimes...laughing...singing...

Usually there is an emotional response to something that is heartfelt, a joyful noise for something almost too good to be true, and the psalmist is saying, where God is concerned....GO FOR IT!

Don't hold back when you come to worship.

God in Christ is our eternal lottery ticket.
He has paid the price and given us all the benefit.

Beyond a lottery ticket – the God of all Creation is our Divine eternal parent and closest friend – pursuing us, calling our name, aware of every detail of our life – with a plan and purpose for each of us...

Join our kids in this praise today...

I learned a secret years ago. The truth is, that when our praise of God comes from our heart many wonderful things start to happen...

Scripture tells us that God inhabits the praises of his people...the joyful noise of our praise...God lives in that. That's his home...

So you will notice that as we **PATSACH**...praise God from the heart, things begin to happen

Doors begin to open

As we PATSACH... a right perspective begins to emerge; the Holy Spirit starts to move; and our hearts are changed.

When we PATSACH...together in community...our hearts filled with joy and praise to the God of our salvation...anything is possible.

Let's PATSACH together...**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!**

II. We Are His People And The Sheep Of His Pasture

I don't know if any of you remember the time I did a talk on Psalm 23 (the Lord is my shepherd) and I brought in a real sheep.

My plan was to have Tim (my husband) stand up here and hold a little lamb while I spoke about the psalm. I knew people didn't see sheep too much anymore, and I thought it would be a good object lesson.

I was in here getting ready for the service, when someone came up to me and said, "The lamb has arrived."

"Where is it?" I asked.

"In the playground," the person said. "And they can't catch it."

I was confused. How can you not catch a little lamb?

I went to the playground and was shocked.

The "lamb" that had arrived was huge... He was running around the playground, frantic, eyes wide, looking like an overgrown goat.

Not exactly what I thought I had ordered from the farm – they apologized later and said I had asked for a young sheep - and it was an adolescent – whatever!!
Not what I had in mind...obviously I did not what to ask for

So, finally, right before I was to get up to speak, a bunch of people tackled it, and Tim was able to scoop him up came in through the side door, and hold it with great difficulty, long legs dangling down, while I talked about the psalm.

No one was listening to me...

They were all watching this gigantic “lamb” eat a button off of Tim’s shirt...

We don’t really understand sheep (I sure didn’t) the way the Hebrews did back in the ancient world

Back then it was like talking about Apple Computer/shepherding was a huge industry and a way to make a living...providing huge commodities for the community...

Just so you know, this statement – We are his people and the sheep of his pasture – is extremely tender and comforting

Many of you have heard Jesus referred to as the good shepherd; the author of this psalm we think was David, who was a shepherd himself.

In this psalm David sees himself as a sheep being taken care of by God – the true shepherd

I don’t know if you realize it but shepherding is a tough job;

A shepherd is continually watching over his sheep.

I don’t know about you, but Sheep all look the same to me. I see them in a field – they all look identical.

Not for the shepherd...

He knows each sheep by name.

He knows their strengths and weaknesses – their proclivities

He must groom them, shear them, defend them (put his life on the line for this), and lead them to find food and shelter.

He must prepare the field for them ahead of time so they don’t twist their ankle in a hole, or eat poisonous ferns;

And when they wander away, he is the one to traverse miles to find them and rescue them...

Did you know that without a leader, without a shepherd, sheep travel the same rutted paths again and again, over and over, even if they have been traversed so much that they are no more than rutted dirty paths? Sheep don’t know how to go to new green pastures. Sheep aren’t that smart.

We’re compared to sheep a lot in the Bible...

What the psalmist is saying here is, “You are not alone. You belong to God. You are his sheep and he is caring for you just like a shepherd cares for his flock – with

meticulous individual care. You may not realize it. You may feel far from God. But you have nothing to fear. Once you believe, you are in his flock, you belong to the One who will give his life for you, and give you all that you need.”

So what are you worried about? Praise God for that!

Make a joyful noise to the One who is worthy to be praised for his great care, and pursuit, and rescuing presence for you today...Be grateful to him! PATSACH – Why? Because we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

III. For The Lord Is Good

This is a statement at the end of the psalm that ought to evoke even more praise. God is good. Literally “Good is Yahweh”... (that word Yahweh is a name for the “self-existent God and comes from when God reveals himself to Moses saying “I AM THAT I AM”...called a The four letters that spell the divine name (YHWH or JHVH) are called the Tetragrammaton.

God is so holy and wonderful and good and powerful his name was sacred and no one could even pronounce his name.

In other words, God’s character, who he is, (that self-existent being) is simply worthy to be praised...no matter what else is going on

And God is good... not just when I feel good; God is good all the time – no matter what mood I am in.

I can forget that.

I can think that when circumstances go awry and I am down in the dumps that God has changed and become dark, or unfaithful– not so

God’s goodness does not change with my moods or my ups and downs...God’s goodness trumps all that

God is good all the time...and I can continually go back to that goodness...and rest in that reality

Listen to the end of this psalm

For the Lord is Good –

Why?

His steadfast love endures forever (covenant love)

And his faithfulness to all generations

I don’t know about you, but in my life when I have looked back on it, I find those statements so true - God is a faithful God.

When I have prayed for a way...

A way has been made, when there has seemed to be no way – every time, all the time

Often not in my timing.

Not when I wanted..and maybe not how I wanted, but there has always been a way made if I am patient and hang on and trust in God's goodness and faithfulness.

If you are hanging on today, trust in the goodness of God. Ask God to help you .

I am not being Pollyanish here. I know life often is not good.

Spurgeon said, "Sometimes God sends His love letters in black-edged envelopes."

If you have lived many years, you have passed through the narrows. We have all been there, and it is not always easy to see the Divine goodness in those moments.

Yet God's goodness – which is his steadfast love and faithfulness remain whether we see it or not.

Those who know God best, praise him anyway even in the storms. And tremendous power is released in that faith.

When we Make A Joyful Noise recognizing that God is good all the time, we can find an even deeper sense of the importance of this kind of heartfelt praise from theologian CS LEWIS who writes the following:

“I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; ...It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; ...to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with. . . . In commanding us to – Praise his goodness...., God is inviting us to complete together the enjoyment of sharing His goodness together.”

Let us Praise God from our hearts...delighting in his love and celebrating his faithfulness together.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE....

AMEN

