

Making His Praise Glorious
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I love Music Sunday

I love Music Sunday because it is a time when we all gather together and praise God – each in our own voices – we all come together – with different instruments – we come together
And we praise God...

I want you to leave here knowing three things about Praise.

1. Scripture says that **God inhabits the praises of his people**

That means God lives in your Praise...

Say that...

GOD LIVES IN MY PRAISE

God makes a home in the praises we sing today
Our praises are God's condo, God's front yard, God's living room
God lives there – in your praise...in my praise...

That's why so often when we start to praise God, even in the midst of difficulty, we begin to sense his presence...right?

We start to praise God when everything is wrong, and suddenly the burdens begin to lift, the darkness grows light, the gloom changes to a glow

I feel pretty good after praising God for an hour in music and song. What about you?

You want to meet God? You want to sense God's presence?

Start praising him...cause praise is where God lives. If I want to meet with someone I go to where they live...

If you want to meet with God, start praising. Its where God lives...in your praise

II. **OUR LIVES OUR MEANT TO BE FULL OF PRAISE**

Just like this psalm

Psalm 150 is full of YADAH

Say that with me...**Psalm 150 is full of YADAH**

Just to be clear...

Not Yoda (have a slide of Yoda)

But YADAH

The Hebrew word for Praise is YADAH

In the Hebrew the word Yadah means to cast, to throw down

In other words – not only to throw oneself down, but to cast words of worthiness and excellence toward God

Look at this psalm. (**Put up psalm 150**) How many different instruments are mentioned?

(I counted 7.)

We had at least 7 instruments praising God today...violin, guitar, organ, piano, harp, drums, cymbals

In fact cymbals are mentioned twice in psalm 150! First we are to YADA God with clanging cymbals (TIM PLAYS)

But then again right after it says YADA God **WITH LOUD CRASHING CYMBALS** (TIM PLAYS REALLY LOUD)

Friends! That sound is Biblical...it's a "give God your ALL sound" isn't it?

The Psalmist, probably David, is saying...Find something...anything at all...and use it to praise God

Maybe it's a flute...or maybe it's a harp...or maybe its loud crashing cymbals

Or maybe it's the breath in your lungs – you sing, you shout, you declare God's goodness

Maybe its with your time you Yada God

Or with your actions you Yada

The point is find something to praise God with – maybe its your very life

And do it with all your heart

Don't hold back

The law told the Jews they needed to praise God 100 times a day

In doing this meditation for you all I could think of to myself is man, I've got to praise God more.

Just like psalm 150 is full of YADAH, I want my life to be full of YADAH

III. **Praise needs a Conductor** Finally, the thing about Music Sunday is that praising together only sounds good if you have a conductor.

Otherwise we would all be a cacophony of mismatched sound...

Steve Potter is amazing and has worked very hard at putting this all together for us today

If you notice a lot of people up here having been looking at Steve as they have been playing and singing.

Why?

Because Steve is our leader here at WVPC when it comes to music. He helps us stay on beat, stay in tune, keep things moving, lowers the bass, ups the treble.... He spends hours every week deciding how to put music together in a way that will inspire on Sunday.

Steve is our leader and...

We need to look to Steve so that our praises together work to create something beautiful.

That's why I love Music Sunday. It mirrors the church in action. I may not be a violin, or an organ – I can't pretend to be what I am not. Maybe instead I am a piano. But if I look to the leader, the conductor, my gifts, my abilities, my praises can become a part of the whole...and together you and I, bringing all our different gifts and abilities create beautiful YADA.

Now the ultimate leader or conductor of this church is Jesus Christ.

I found this quote recently describing a conductor from Elias Canetti philosopher – and I couldn't help but think about Jesus conducting and leading us... the church

“His eyes hold the whole orchestra. Every player feels that the conductor sees him personally and still more, hears him...He knows not only what each should be doing but what he is doing. He is the living embodiment of law, both positive and negative. His hands decree and prohibit...And since, during the performance, nothing is supposed to exist except this work, for this length of time the conductor is the ruler of the world!”

As we move into communion, If you haven't already, rivet your eyes on our conductor, Jesus Christ who is made manifest at this communion table.

Jesus is conducting this church...are you looking at him

Do the eyes of Christ hold you today?

Are you aware that Christ sees you personally, and hears you?

Have you come to the point where you know what God is calling you to do, and how you fit into God's larger plan – or longer musical score?

How perhaps you fit into this church, using your God given abilities – whether you are a piano or a violin or a cymbal...it all works when we are looking at the same conductor.

Today at this table we celebrate communion. Communion means all of us participating together, united in celebration to the One who gave his life – our conductor, our Lord – and we're united because we are all following the same tempo, the same beat, the same score...even though we may express it all differently it works because we are all looking at the same conductor.

That's how the church is supposed to operate...

So today as you partake be sure you are looking at Jesus. And as we all do that, may we as a church come together as God's people with all of our different gifts and abilities and praises, to be something beautiful that testifies to the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let us pray