



Truth for Today

October 18, 2020

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

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How to Come to Church

by Rickie Jenkins

How would you describe God? If someone said, "I understand God to be angry and wrathful." If someone said, "I think God is a perfectionist. Perfect is never enough for Him." What if somebody said, "I would describe God as being happy." How would that strike you? One writer said, "Our happy God should be worshipped by happy people." If happy is not your word, how about joyful? Do you think of God as joyful? God is a God of joy. Joy and the God of joy fills Psalm 100, a call to praise and worship.

There is way to come to church and worship the God of all joy. There is an attitude of heart that is essential... This Psalm speaks to the way we need to worship and the worship we need to offer this great, joyful God. [It] calls us to be a happy people serving a happy God. This is a Psalm of thanksgiving, a call to praise God although He is not addressed in the Psalm. This Psalm addresses the worshipper. It addresses how we should worship. It addresses how we should enter His presence. Praise toward God produces edification...

Joyfully (1-3) | This is a call to worship God with a joyful shout (1). It is an invitation to all people (i.e., lands) to... come and shout as the King goes by. Come into the court and shout joyfully to the King with praise and adoration. This is a global invitation. The thought is people come out with a response full of joy and gratitude to worship God.

Worship is tied to service (2). If we do not serve the Lord Monday through Saturday, our worship will become stale and artificial. Worship is a service, and it calls us to serve the Lord in every way possible. Come to the Lord with singing. Remember the sacrifice of our lips goes up before the Lord (Heb. 13:15).

When we do this there are three things we can know. First, we can know who God is (3). That is the language of Jehovah. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, He is God. Second, we know where we came from: "It is he who made us and not ourselves..." Third, we can know who we are: "We are His people." We belong to God. We are given a favored position. We are sheep in His pasture. We belong to the good and great Shepherd.

Thankfully (4-5). How do we bless the name of the Lord? To bless the name of God means to speak well of Him. "Name" of God stands for all God is. When I say His name, I say good things about Him. I ascribe glory and majesty. He is our Creator. We come before God and we say good things. We are thankful to Him. We praise and adore Him. Notice three things said about God (5): The Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, His truth endures to all generations. Mercy is the word of steadfast love of the covenant. That is, God's willingness to perform the covenant out of great love.

Worship should be a joyful experience. The invitation to worship here is not melancholy, as though worship were a funeral. It is a cheery and glad exhortation, as though we were invited to a marriage feast. This is serious, yes, but at the same time worship must not be performed in the slavery of fear. There should be an element of joy and gladness and the thrill that our God is our God. This is not a reference to style... That focuses attention on us and what we are doing. If style produces joy, we will always have to change the style. Worship is an acknowledgement and celebration of the centrality of God in all our lives.

Worship acknowledges and delights in everything we are. I may not be able to tell you how joy ought to work itself out in your life. I may not be able to tell you how to express your emotions. That is, if you do not cry when I cry or smile when I smile, your worship is vain. We are different. Having said that if worship is joyful there are some things that fit joy universally. Joyful experience dispels apathy. I have never known a young woman who has just become engaged to be apathetic. "I am getting married and it is no big deal." Have you ever seen an apathetic new parent? Have you ever seen an apathetic new grandparent? Joy comes to our lives because good things happen that we care about intensely. If I do not feel joyful in my worship, I do not need to look to others to blame. If I am apathetic about God, then the hole in worship where joy is leaking out, is a hole in my heart. Joy and half-heartedness do not go together. Joy calls forth from us the best we can do. It moves us and energizes us. If we are intensely concerned about God, care deeply about the Lord and His word, then our worship can never be a case of "Whatever."

It is up to me to bring my whole heart to this effort. It is up to me to assemble with an attitude that I am ready to serve the Lord. As I do that, worshipping the Lord ought to be an experience of thanksgiving (4). Thanksgiving runs all through this Psalm, Our God is good, be thankful (5). We are His people and the sheep of His pasture (3). Many have never been around sheep and do not know much about shepherding. Sheep love their shepherd. They look to their shepherd and know that they are lost without Him... Unfortunately, some do not even want to be in the shepherd's flock. Yet, the Psalmist celebrates how good it is to be one of the Lord's sheep.

So how do we "come to church?" Maybe the answer comes once we settle how we describe God. This Psalm will say the Lord is a joyful Shepherd who blesses and cares for His sheep. A Shepherd that is pleased by our worship. Who we can come before and adore and praise with hearts full of gladness and thanksgiving?

How do [you] "come to church?" With a heart joyfully ready to praise the Lord Who is so good to us! Let this Psalm help you get your heart ready to be a joyful worshipper. *[edited for brevity].*

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- Keith Arrants
- Kathy Austin began stronger medication for a lifelong AFIB condition that has returned. Hopes are for an ablation procedure later once the medication normalizes her condition.
- Brenda Swann is home recovering and loves visitors. Her family has asked that you wear a mask while visiting.
- Linda Faugn's brother, Leland Webb, passed away Wednesday. Arrangements are pending.
- Linda Peterson's procedure went well, but she still needs surgery for the hernia repair, tentatively scheduled for Thursday Oct 29 pending a cardiology workup. She could use prayers and encouragement!
- Many of our senior citizens, the Doug and Mary-Lou Hall, Bill Hooton, Carl & Annette Yaws, (as well as Maureen Chegin's mother) due to the restrictions on senior living facilities that still remain in force after the recent changes announced by the governor, are still prevented from leaving the facilities for non-medical reasons (like attending church). I'm sure they could use your prayers and notes and calls of encouragement. There are others who are reticent to get out because of doctor's orders, like Linda Peterson, Alan Swor, Helen West and Al Williams. There are many others still home as well. So if you haven't seen these – or others – for a while, send them a "hello" with a call or card. I know they would appreciate it.

IN-PERSON SCHEDULE (*Seating is based on pew capacities to maintain safe seating distances. Please follow recommended wearing of face masks, especially when singing.*)

- **ONE SUNDAY SERVICE** begins **TODAY, 10/18** at 10:00 a.m. (Lord willing).
- **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS, 7:00 PM.**

Adult class is "BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS" and children classes will meet in their rooms to resume the curriculum series.

- **TUESDAY CLASS, 10:30 AM.** "FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM: *the story of Israel* (from *Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers*) and will meet in the auditorium". ZOOM available.

VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

LiveStream events are still InPerson events and replayable on our YouTube Channel

- **Worship** | Sundays, 10:00 a.m.
- **Adult Class** | Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
- **Adult Class** | Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **2:52 Kids Class** on first Sundays[2-12] | 11/1 4:00 p.m. (classroom 9)
- **TEEN DEVO** [12-18] | (TBA)
- **YOUNG ADULTS STUDY** | Friday 10/23, 6:30 p.m.
- **ADULTS STUDY** [30/40] | (TBA)
- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES** Bible Class on first Sundays | 11/1 4:00 p.m. (auditorium)
- **MEN'S DAY** with David McClister | 11/7. Posters available on the member table. Look for social media notifications.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Contact Brian with updates or if you need a PDF of the directory.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS** See the Monthly Assignments and let Barrett, Al, or Nathan know if you cannot fulfill an assignment.
- **TEACH?** We now need teachers for Winter quarter classes. **Please contact Don Hooton if you are willing to teach.**

- **TEACHERS STILL NEEDED:** Sundays for Cradle (12m-18m) and PreK (3-4 YO) and Wednesdays for High School.
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt about getting involved in Barnabus Group.
- **HOSPITALITY?** Maureen Chegin and Cecelia Neel are coordinating food for members who need assistance after a surgery, during an extended recovery, or after a funeral.

ENCOURAGE AND PRAY FOR THE MEN WE SUPPORT:

- Santiago Acosta, East Conroe
- Okello Ambrose Bob, Uganda
- Edward Brand
- Brent Forsyth, Brea, CA
- Aaron Kemple, Casco, MI
- Sam Leonard Mallisa, Uganda
- Robert Raif, Corrigan/Huntsville prisons
- Roberto Tondelli, Italy

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

Week Forty-two (beginning 10/18)

- READ Psalm Psalm 41, 91, 141
- MEMORIZE Psalm 91:1-4

Attendance	InPerson Average Last-Month	Virtual Average Last-Month	InPerson Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
Sunday Adult Class	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunday Worship AM	102	45	127	43
Tuesday Adult Class	n/a	n/a		9
Sunday Worship PM	n/a	n/a	n/a	11
Wednesday PM	62	22	60	3

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM 10/18	10:00 AM 10/25	CONTACT INFORMATION
Foyer 1-Welcome	Craig Preuss	Stuart Jones	Elders
Foyer 2-Ushering	Leo Betancourt	Ross Randow	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
SongLeading	Jonathan Chandler	Alan Stilts	George Chapman 281.298.1303
1st Prayer	Clint Ford	Granville Betton	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Scripture	Ross Randow	Cameron French	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	1Timothy 6:6-19	Hebrews 1:1-4	Deacons
Communion_Lead	Barrett Blankenship	Brian Clark	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
2nd Prayer	Stuart Jones	Michael Henss	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Announcements	Keith Arrants	Don Hooton	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Sanitize-Bathrooms After	L&J Betancourt	D&T Hooton	Evangelists
Sanitize-Pews After	W&R Ray	C&L Ford	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Building Open/Lockup	Adam Bohanan	Dwight Haas	Website
Sound 1	Chris Latson	Chris Latson	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org
Communion Prep	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	Office Phone
Counting Contribution	Keith Arrants - Hayden Clark	Norman Davis - Timothy Chandler	281.367.2099
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM 10/21	7:00 PM 10/28	Church Email
SongLeading	Leo Betancourt	Keith Arrants	woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com
Invitation/Talk	Hayden Clark	Dwight Haas	
Prayer	Nathan Shows	Gerald Hodges	
Announcements	Norman Davis	Don Hooton	