

## Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations” (Psalm 100).*

Given our unique circumstances in the past eight months, and the many challenges and difficulties that so many have faced, we might think that as Thanksgiving approaches, we have very little for which to be thankful. But scripture and particularly Psalm 100 tell us a completely different story. In fact, the passage invites us to praise the Lord with great joy; to celebrate and worship the God of love.

The major theme that emerges from this Psalm is the importance of belonging to God. During the past year there may have been times when we felt abandoned or forgotten by God. But the psalm presents the entire earth as joined together, not separated and alone. God’s steadfast love endures forever. And in the same way that we sing a song of praise to our creator, we acknowledge, praise, and bless Him for his goodness and mercy. Indeed, the Lord is good and he never abandons us; God is always ready to sustain us with his merciful love, even and especially during times of great doubt and fear. “Be not be afraid. I go before you always. Come follow me, and I will give you rest” (John Michael Talbot).

During this Thanksgiving weekend, let us remember that God is with us, in the good times and in the moments that we find ourselves struggling. “Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture” (Psalm 100). Like God, we too are called to be “good shepherds” in the environments where we live: in our families, at work, and in the community, sharing the Gospel message of love with everyone we meet.

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