

March 11, 2023

Why We Sing

[Psalm 95](#)

² *Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song.*

I'll admit that Psalm 95 is one that wasn't very familiar to me, but I'm very glad that I spent some time with it recently.

As a professional musician and music educator for many years, I know that I take music for granted, so anything that shakes me out of that is always welcome.

This year was the first time in many years that I didn't have a Christmas Eve "gig," and I was out of town with family. I was fortunate to be able to attend Christ UMC in Wheeling, West Virginia, and partake in a service there.

Music was what filled me the most that evening, and I realized that it's what has always drawn me to the church and to God.

I missed having my horn and playing descents with a Methodist choir and a top-notch organist. But I had a rare chance to experience worship as a participant. I'm thankful for what it awoke in me.

I felt able to celebrate.

I finally had the chance to ask why it is that it's such an important part of worship for us. Why does God call us to lift our voices in music and song? Maybe it's because music is participatory, and it's a way for us to celebrate with others in unison.

There is real power in that practice, and deep meaning. There certainly is for me. As a musician, it's a blessing to have been able to be a part of the worship experience for family and friends for so many years.

During this Lenten season, let us remember to give extra weight to the times in our worship when we make music together, and give thanks not only for God's blessing, but also for the gift of song, sung verses, and for musicians who lead us in extolling Him joyfully.

Prayer: *Lord, we thank you for the blessing of song, and we are grateful to be able to lift up our voices in harmony and unison as we celebrate Your glory. Fill our hearts, minds, and ears with music during this time, and let us always be thankful for the call to sing. Amen.*

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