

“Praise the Lord!”
Message by DD Adams
Praise and Worship Service 5th Sunday
Kemptown Providence U.M. Church
September 30, 2018

The New Testament lesson is from the book of Colossians, chapter 3, verses 16 through 17. ¹⁶ “The word of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.”

The Old Testament lesson comes from the book of Psalms chapter 150.

¹ Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

² Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. ³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, ⁴ praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, ⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. ⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. This is God’s word for the people of God. Praise the Lord!

In Psalm 150 we have only six verses that sketch out a way for us to praise God. A way to give honor and show our admiration for the one we love! In Psalm

150 and anywhere we are at any given time we can praise God. We can praise God in the sanctuary for his acts of power. We can praise him for his outstanding greatness that cannot be equaled or rivaled. We can praise him with a trumpet, we can praise him with a harp, and we can praise him with a tambourine and strings and cymbals!

You may have asked this question. “Why should we praise the Lord?” Children may ask, “Does God need encouragement? Is that why we should praise him?” We praise God because God is worthy of our praise! The Psalmist says that everything that has breathe should praise the Lord! This is where we received our breath! And only God can give us breath that does more than just breathe! Our breath rejoices! And a trumpet, harp, tambourine, strings and cymbals don’t have breathe or life—until—we give them breathe!

And we praise the Lord “according to the Lord’s surpassing greatness.” We praise God for choosing us as his children and granting us understanding, for continuing to cleanse our hearts, enlighten our minds, and bend our wills to his. For God speaks to us and works through us according to his excellent greatness. And so we praise him with deep and fanatical admiration according being in harmony with the greatness of his being.

We praise him for all he has done for us and for the greatness and kindness of his love that saved us and led us to repentance. God’s grace and gifts have

poured down on us enabling and empowering us to worship him in all things. For the greatness of what he has promised us surpasses and goes beyond what we could even begin to imagine.

And all this encouragement moves us to investigate further and rejoice continually about the greatness of his works and see his glory in all of creation. That we should meditate and acknowledge God in all that we see and experience. And to then responsively tell about his excellent greatness in all we do to honor him. And to pray that *in all we do* our telling in word and in deed would never contradict the honor that's due to him! And that our lives would speak the praise that lead others to desire him.

If we walk through a woods we hear the praises of God in all that he has put into creation for our enjoyment. As we sung the second stanza of "*How Great Thou Art*" we pictured and heard the birds singing in the trees; the stream that murmurs and relaxes us with a peaceful whisper as we felt God's gentle breeze on our face. And our heart exclaims ". . . my Savior God to Thee; How great Thou art! How great Thou art!"

When you take a walk in nature one of the first things that gently strokes your spirit is that God created all that you see and hear and feel, and it ministers to the core of your being. Psalm 19, 2 through 4 say that the work of God's hands, day after day pour forth speech and night after night they reveal knowledge. They

have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

The words in nature declare a general revelation of God proclaiming his excellent greatness and love for all he has made. And truly, God's creation is a witness to God's unseen attributes of everlasting power and divine nature.

If I had an organ like we have in this church that Sharon plays, and if she pulled out all the stops it wouldn't be enough to praise the one that made us as part of God's glorious creation. Because there are no words for God's surpassing greatness and Psalm 150 surpasses the top to show God's unmatched worth. And we know, this is just the beginning in our lives as the children of God to continue to live out our eternal life in Christ.

For all the energy that God mightily inspires within us—for those who have received their strength and vitality from the one who breathes life into us daily—and loads us down moment by moment with benefits—with joy and delight we join together in the symphony of unrestrained praise! For in this life in Christ, here on earth, let's put our heart and soul and every muscle into praise that worships and honors the Lord

I'd like to use the verses from Colossians to sum up our first 5th Sunday Praise and Worship Service. ¹⁶ “The word of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual

songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.”

Please pray with me. Holy God and lover of all people everywhere, cause the word of Christ to live inside us as its planted, watered, produces much fruit and continues to yield wisdom in all of us. Teach us your words that well up in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs so we might know the word of God and to live it.

Let it dwell in our hearts and become part of our lives so much so that we have a powerful heart knowledge that witnesses to the world that Christ lives in us richly. And Lord, let it dwell ‘abundantly’ so much so that when we are filled to overflowing with your words it produces in us true wisdom that comes down from above. Praise the Lord. Let it be so. Amen.