

## “Remembering Who You Are”

Psalm 100: 1-5; Galatians 5: 22-23

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**Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord:** Many of us were raised to be quiet and keep our voices down. Certainly, it is necessary at times to keep our voices down and it is at times necessary to raise them. Worship is one of them. We raise our voice because we are joyful about our God of Grace. The Israelites proclaimed that God is King of their lives, and they praise God for their loving and gracious King!

Psalm 100 is a psalm of imperatives: Shout (verse 1), worship (v.2), Come (v.2), Enter (v.2,4), Praise (v. 4), Give thanks (v.4), bless (v. 4)

Throughout the history of the Christian church, Psalm 100 was used to bring the community together in energetic and joyful praise. Ralph Vaughan William's composed the arrangement of "The Old One Hundredth Psalm," for the processional hymn of Queen Elizabeth II coronation service in June of 1953.

**Know that the Lord is God:** The word 'know' as translated from the Hebrew is not merely knowledge about God, but a deep intimate knowing of God.

God's people are described as "the sheep of God's pasture" in verse 3. In the context of Psalm 100 it is important to know that the thinking in the time of the ancient near east was that the king was viewed as 'a shepherd'. Those in the kingdom belong to him. Kings from all over that region viewed themselves as shepherds.

But this psalm is making the connection to the divine king, the one to whom they truly belong and where they gain their identity. The psalm uses this royal metaphor to remind the people of Israel of their true king, Yahweh. It is ironic but yet profound for how this Psalm was used in a coronation service of Queen Elizabeth orienting the community towards God alone. God is their King!

**Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving:** Thanksgiving is the password so to speak. In gratitude one can receive the gifts of the king with joy.

**For the Lord is Good:** Yahweh's goodness is viewed through the historic relationship Yahweh has with the people of Israel. The character of God in this psalm and in numerous other psalms is God's steadfast love and faithfulness. Yahweh is good because Yahweh is reliable with love and grace. The people of Israel, and we today, can rely on Yahweh for the future.

Do you know the Lord is God? Do you know who you are? You are a loved child of God and you are not your own, but you belong body and soul to Jesus Christ the Lord and saviour of your life.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord. Worship the Lord with gladness!

Amen.