

Notes:

Enter to Worship. Depart to Serve.

Sermon Text

The Song Service
Fourth in the series
“Our Worship Service”

Subject

Why is it called the song “service?” In the early years of Christianity, non-believers and non-baptized were permitted to attend the first parts of the worship gatherings, but then were dismissed. Thus the parts of the meetings were separated into “services.”

As worship of God is the function of the church Body, congregational singing is one of the highest forms of corporate worship. The song service is the time when “the church in one accord lifts its voice and glorifies God through music.” Singing is as much an act of worship as is prayer. Participatory singing sets the tone for the rest of the worship time, and brings us together as the united family of God.

When we talk about singing in the church, we of the Methodist tradition refer back to Wesley’s Rules for Congregational Singing (here slightly abbreviated):

- I. Learn these [songs] before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.
- II. Sing them exactly as they are printed...
- III. Sing All. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find a blessing.
- IV. Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength...
- V. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.
- VI. Sing in Time: whatever time is sung, be sure to keep with it....And take care you sing not too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from among us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.
- VII. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your Heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve of here, and reward when He cometh in the clouds of heaven.

In this sin-sick, weary world, we need so much the joy that comes through singing "with the spirit and the understanding," so

SING!

Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.
Psalm 149:1



PHOTO: RDO 9-9-2012

It is with delight that we welcome all who have come to worship.
 May God's loving presence fill us with joy and hope as we
 prepare ourselves to follow Christ.

Call to Worship

The heavens shout of God's glory!
There is so much beauty in this earth and in the heavens!
 Day by day we are reminded of God's creative love.
*Day by day we are blessed with large and small visions of
 God's glory.*
 Come, let us praise the God of creation.
*Let us sing and shout our praises of thanksgiving and joy to
 God. AMEN.*
 —Adapted from Psalm 19

Announcements

- **Sunset tonight** - Rosh Hashanah - the Jewish New Year that ushers in the Ten Days of Awe. It is a time of prayer and introspection that leads ultimately to the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur).
- **September 24-29** - Conference Sunday School Emphasis Week
- *Visit our web site for the latest information and photos.*

Friend Day Is Coming!

It is time to start praying for our fall outreach! Nothing can be done without prayer.
 In a survey of 50,000 people by Charles Arn over the last 10 years, between 75 and 90 percent of respondents said, "I began attending because someone invited me."
 In another study, people came to church through the following forms of contact:
 2% by Advertisement
 6% by the Pastoral Invitation
 6% by organized evangelism campaign
 86% by friends or relatives (*The Inviting Church*)

SERVICES — SUNDAY: Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Cobleskill 4:00 p.m. Evening 7:00 p.m. — WEDNESDAY: Midweek Service 7:00 p.m.
 — FRIDAY: Women's Fellowship 10:30 a.m.

Prayer Requests

- This week we are praying for our sister church at **Fostoria, Ohio**. The pastor is Joseph Hurst.
- Pray for **revival** in our church and community.
- Continue to pray for:
 - Special requests for neighbors, relatives, and friends on our hearts.
 - Missionaries: B. Fay, C. Hostetler, the Hunters, the Kisers, the Kurtenses, the Mayles, the Millses, the Mussers, the D. Shermans, the J. Shermans; and the Himelicks and others at VICM.
 - Our **young people**, those in school, at work, and those who need jobs.
 - Bible Colleges - GBS, PVBI, AWC, UBC, HSBC
 - Our armed services personnel.
 - Our President, Congress, and Supreme Court, that they may make righteous choices.
- Pray for these physical need requests:
 - Thelma Heckman, Lillian Jamison, Louise, Tula Schenck, Helen Schenck, Ruth Sperbeck, Barbara Kirwan, Ed Snyder, Kathy Moltzen, Karagen Roberts, Claire Tolan, Sandy Griesemer and her mother, Mark Vosburgh, Duane Maxey, Michael Wright, Clayton Jones.
- Please let us know of anyone who is ill, facing a time of hospitalization, or would like a home visit.

Suggested Daily Scripture Reading

	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
OT	Isaiah 22:1-24:23	Isaiah 25:1-28:13	Isaiah 28:14-30:11
NT	Galatians 2:17-3:9	Galatians 3:10-22	Galatians 3:23-4:31
PSA	Psalm 60:1-12	Psalm 61:1-8	Psalm 62:1-12
PROV	Proverbs 16	Proverbs 17	Proverbs 18
	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
	Isaiah 30:12-33:9	Isaiah 33:10-36:22	Isaiah 37:1-38:22
	Galatians 5:1-12	Galatians 5:13-26	Galatians 6:1-18
	Psalm 63:1-11	Psalm 64:1-10	Psalm 64:1-10
	Proverbs 19	Proverbs 20	Proverbs 21
			<i>Saturday</i>
			Isaiah 39:1-41:16
			Ephesians 1:1-23
			Psalm 66:1-20
			Proverbs 22