

A Singing Church

Week 1 - Created to Sing

He Is Our God

VERSE 1

Who can light the fires
Of a thousand burning suns
Blazing in the heavens?
There is only One
He is our God

VERSE 2

Who commands the nations
Building up and tearing down
Silencing His rivals?
There is only One
He is our God, He is our God

CHORUS

Holy, You alone are holy
Matchless in Your glory, holy God

VERSE 3

Who would come to save us
When we turned away His love
Conquer us with kindness?
There is only One
He is our God, He is our God

BRIDGE

Now to the King on the throne
Who was and is to come
And to the Lamb Who was slain be glory

A Singing Church
Week 1 - Created to Sing

Introduction

Question: Can you recall an example of a memorable occasion where you enjoyed singing in church? What about that event made an impact on you?

Question: What causes some of us to not sing in church?

Why should we sing? To declare His excellencies!

1 Peter 2:9

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

Ephesians 5:19-20

... but be filled with the spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart ...“... ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ ...

“Though maybe misunderstood, regularly a bone of contention, and often under-practiced, congregational singing is one of the greatest and most beautiful tools we have been given to declare God’s “excellencies”, strengthening His church and sharing His glory with the world.”

- Getty

“Let God speak directly to His people through the Scriptures, and let His people respond with grateful songs of praise.”

- Martin Luther

“There is no part of the worship life more in need of reformation today than congregational singing.”

- Ligon Duncan

Class Goals

- 1) To discover why we sing
- 2) To consider how it impacts our faith
- 3) To cultivate a culture of family singing
- 4) To equip our church family for singing
- 5) To see congregational singing as a witness

A Singing Church

Week 1 - Created to Sing

Designed to Sing

- We aren't all great singers; and that's okay!
- Singing is not a "happy by-product" of God giving us voices to speak and communicate
- Our psyches are designed for singing
 - Think of commercial jingles that have been stuck in your head for years, how children learn basic lessons and their ABC's, national anthems, etc. How much easier is it for you to remember something set to a melody?
- Creatures created in His image do as He does

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Zephaniah 3:17

¹⁷ The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

- Jesus sang
 - After the Lord's Supper, Jesus and the disciples "sang a hymn" together

What if I Can't Sing?

- If you can speak, you can physically sing (believe it or not!)
- Singing begins with the heart, not the lips (Ephesians 5:19)
- Not a professional standard, a confessional standard
- We seek to improve at what we truly value

"To praise God in tuneful song takes time, and we grow better at singing by singing. And once we've reached our peak, if it is still some way short of the tuneful heights, a sense of humor is a useful ally. Some people do have a special gift of singing absolutely every note slightly off pitch (which is, ironically, very hard to do). Since we sing to encourage and praise, not to impress and earn praise, we can smile about that and sing anyway."

- Getty

Question: What kind of "practice" might we do to help our church family members feel more confident, less self-aware, and more engaged in worship singing?

A Singing Church
Week 1 - Created to Sing

Singing in His Image

- God is a creator who enjoys beauty
 - Created in His image, we will enjoy beauty too

Genesis 2:9

“⁹ And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.”

- We all appreciate beauty in music, whether we realize it or not

“Songs reach the inner corridors of our soul in a way that other things cannot. This is part of why we tend to have such heated conversations about what we like in church music - because it moves us so deeply. We are designed as beauty-appreciators. It matters to us.”

- Getty

- We are powerfully engaged in our senses and memories by music

“When His church sings together, voice upon voice like arms linked across a room, and indeed across all the gathering places of His followers around the globe, across history, we are doing what we were designed to enjoy – using our God-given voices to sing praises together to the One who gave us those voices”

- Getty

Singing with all Creation

- When we sing, it brings us in line with the rest of creation

Psalms 98:4-9

⁴ Make joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praise! ⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! ⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord! ⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! ⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together ⁹ before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

- Singing leads us to the great Singer, Creator of heavens and earth
- Our singing should sound like Him, look like Him, and lead our hearts to Him

Question: What do you experience during congregational singing - feelings like joy, fear, self-consciousness, freedom, etc.?

A Singing Church

Week 1 - Created to Sing

- An exhortation to close our time this week:

“Don’t sing primarily because you love singing, or keep quiet because you do not. Sing because you love who made you, and formed you, and enables you sing.”

- Getty