

**A Publication of the Port Orchard Church of Christ
July 9, 2023**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

“It takes no effort to sing.” I saw that quote shared with approval recently. It is a false statement. With the understanding that Christians should live our faith in the public square, singing is part and parcel of that experience. From biblical calls for all of creation to sing praises to God to singing attested in Paul’s letters to singing before God’s throne in Revelation, followers of the living God sing. How can they do otherwise? To call for a cessation of singing by Christians borders on heresy. Jesus and his disciples sang at the Last Supper. The church sang in the days and weeks following Pentecost. Christians in Corinth sang. James urged,

“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord” (James 5:13-14).

Singing expresses joy. But we also may sing songs of lament that communicate our brokenness or that advocate that God take action against injustice and other sin. Singing usually is intentional. We decide to sing. Sometimes, it is true, we may find ourselves singing a song that we heard without paying much attention to the lyrics or whether we are singing well. The tune is “stuck in our head.” For some reason it resonates with us and so we sing it as we move about. Usually, we sing what we believe, what we enjoy, or words that express what we feel. Singing has transformed movements and provided an emotional underpinning that sustained during the darkest hours. Singing and prayer together with action that flows from those lyrics and prayers glorifies God, lifts hearts, corrects wrongs, and fastens convictions firmly in our hearts.

Singing takes effort. We have to breathe to sing. We have to read, hear, or remember to sing. Sometimes it may take courage to sing. Singing can awaken an individual’s awareness, but also capture the attention of a society. Singing may vilify, but it may also teach righteousness and chart a path towards God. And sometimes, whether we sing songs of praise or psalms of lament, we also pray, as in these words from James Weldon Johnson’s chorus, [“Lift Every Voice and Sing.”](#)

“God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has brought us thus far on the way; Thou who has by thy might, led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee, lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee.”

Songs and prayers without serving ignore God’s answers to our advocacy for others. Serving without singing and praying removes joy and spirit from discipleship. We must not separate our singing and prayer from our living as people who follow in the path blazed by Jesus, who demonstrated love in action, by association, by selfless service and by sacrificial giving of himself, who called us to follow him, the Messiah who sang, even when the chorus of our song reflects that we suffer as he did in overcoming the power of death. Let us sing, let us pray, and let us serve courageously.

- Michael Summers
March 7, 2023

Our Prayer List

- Oilda Harris's daughter Frances Vega, works for a cruise ship company. Oilda hasn't heard from her in 4 weeks. Please pray that Frances is okay and will be in contact with Oilda very soon.
- Pray for the Byrd family after the recent passing of Barbara Byrd.
- Prayers for Nancy Armenta and upcoming appointments to determine what the treatment will be.
- Pray for continued healing of Jon Powless' foot.
- Pray for safe travel for the Frys.
- Pray also for Dave and Kevin Lawrence as they travel.
- For all those who are struggling for many different reasons, pray for them to find peace.
- Pray for safety for all of the fire fighters who are battling fires in our local communities.
- Pray for our ministries, the SLT and our church.

*Just a
thought...*

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Ephesians 6:18-20

"Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore, my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

- Psalms 16:5-11

Praise God as HE IS GOOD ! ALL THE TIME.

POCOC Web Site (<http://pococ.weebly.com/>)

- Weekly Bulletin – Go to <http://pococ.weebly.com/> then click on Bulletin & Newsletters
- Pre-Covid audio sermons are also still online. Click on Teachings
- Current Event Calendar - Click on News & Events
- Live stream of worship services on YouTube Channel - Previous video recordings, too: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_SrX11URAKOYw7JOR9ZIQ then click on the desired video. Please subscribe to be notified when new videos post or when we go live.



Sunday Worship for July 9, 2023 (10:30 am – 12:00 – noon) (Children are dismissed for Children’s Church after communion) Watch live-stream or after our worship time: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_SrX11URAKOYw7JOR9ZIQ					
Speaker: Trent Herbert	Singing Jon Powless	Scripture: Trent Herbert	Prayer: Dave Snynn	Communion: Jim Snead	Offering: Jim Snead
July Servers – Brian Bungart Nio Velez Elijah Herbert Terry Bratcher					
9:30 am Adult Class: Auditorium Led by Trent Herbert			Children Class: Downstairs Two Classes: children and pre-teen		
Call Laura Fry or the Church Office (360-876-2604) for Zoom Meeting ID					
Men’s Fellowship Downstairs Fellowship Room Tuesdays - 10:00 am			Ladies in the Word Conference Room Tuesdays - 10:00 am		
Bible Class & Prayer Colossians (in person or on Zoom) Wednesdays: 5:00 - 6:00 pm			Ladies Prayer Group LaDonna's home Thursdays 10:00 am		
Port Orchard Church of Christ 4135 Carr Lane SE Port Orchard, WA 98366 360-876-2604 - churchpococ@gmail.com			July 2, 2023 - Tithes & Offerings – \$ 1,975.00		
			If you have any questions, please give me a call. God bless you. Gary Chasteen (cell) 360-731-4104		
Call Laura Fry or the Church Office (360-876-2604) for Zoom Meeting ID					

Communion and Tithes & Offerings

The bread and fruit of the vine will be served during our communion time. You also have the option to pick up your communion supplies as you enter the auditorium. It contains both the juice and the bread.

There are also a few options for giving your tithes & offerings:

- 1) The collection box is in the foyer at the entrance to the auditorium.
- 2) Online bill-pay with your bank or credit union. Your bank will mail your check for you.
- 3) Mail your tithe/offering check directly to the Church address below. We have a lock mailbox.

Happy Birthday!

July: Peggy Hall – 19, Sharon McDaniel – 23, Luke Orser – 25, Trent Herbert – 27.

August: Tanya Howard – 1, Elijah Herbert – 2, Winnie Wilson – 2, Thias David – 12, Terry Bratcher – 17, Connie Greer – 20, Hanna Herbert – 22, Dave Snynn – 25, Shirley Olson – 30

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift evry voice and sing, Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listning skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of faith
that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope
that the present has brought us

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march till victory is won

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastning rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn has died
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way
that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path
thro the blood of the slaughtered

Out from the gloomy past,
till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our
bright star is cast

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears
Thou who hast brought us thus
far on the way
Thou who hast by Thy might,
led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray

Lest our feet stray from the places,
our God, where we met Thee
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world,
we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand
True to our God, true to our native land

Psalms 33:1 (NIV)
Sing joyfully to the Lord , you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.



Sing to the Lord!

[Psalms 96:1 \(NIV\)](#)

[1 Chronicles 16:23 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 96:2 \(NIV\)](#)

[Isaiah 12:5 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 104:33 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 149:1 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 98:1 \(NIV\)](#)

[Isaiah 42:10 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 68:32 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 13:6 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 95:1 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 30:4 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 101:1 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 68:4 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 33:1 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 135:3 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 147:1 \(NIV\)](#)

[Ephesians 5:19 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 146:2 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 89:1 \(NIV\)](#)

[Psalms 95:2 \(NIV\)](#)