

Psalms in the Key of Life

A sermon preached by
James F. McIntire

© Copyright 2010
James F. McIntire
All rights reserved.

Texts:
Selected Psalms

November 21, 2010
Thanksgiving Sunday



Hope United Methodist Church
Eagle & Steel Roads, Havertown, PA
Phone: 610-446-3351
Web: www.HavHopeUMC.org
Office: HopeUMCHavertown@verizon.net
Pastor: HopeUMCPastor@verizon.net

The following poetic meditation was written as a word of thanksgiving as our Thanksgiving holiday approaches, as an offering of love. The Psalms are songs of praise used in worship by Jews throughout the centuries, liturgical moments of praise and often as a way to give thanks to God who has given us all we are and all we have.

The title of this meditation, *Psalms in the Key of Life* is borrowed, with apology and great respect, from Stevie Wonder's album, *Songs in the Key of Life*.

The Psalms noted in the right margin are favorites of Rev. McIntire and are the foundation for his poem:

Psalms in the Key of Life

I wait for God, *Psalm 130*
my soul waits,
in God's promises do I hope.
my soul waits for God
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for *this* morning.
Hope in God,
my friends,
for only with God is there
steadfast love,
and with God is great power to redeem.

Yea though I walk through ... *Psalm 23*
Life
I am alive in God my salvation
Yea though I walk through
Life
in all its confusion
Yea though I walk through
Life, yes, life
Yet also through

All
that troubles and
all that enlivens me
I know that God is
My Companion,
My Redemption,
My Overflowing Cup,
My Lover.

God can be,
the only focus of thanks
And praise.

The heavens tell me of the glory *Psalm 19*
of God
The earth whispers
of the Creator
I hear the whispers and the groans
I know the tenor and tremor of that voice.
God's voice is not *my* voice
yet God's voice *is* my voice
and my neighbors voice
and mine enemies' voice.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
Unless we listen
unless we want to hear,
unless we try to hear.
Let all who are,
God's voice
all who know,
God's voice
be,
God's voice

For God's voice is heard
In whispers and shouts
to me
of justice and tolerance
of compassion and love
their voice
must spread through all the earth
those words
to the end of the world.

God is my guide, my guard,
I shall not want.
For that I give thanks.
I lie down in the softness of her embrace
She comforts me and restores me
She leads me and shows me
No evil
No fear
Only rightness and
Life in its fullness and goodness
So I live in her midst
In her mercy and care
As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for her,
My God.
My soul thirsts for God.

Psalm 23

Make joy all the earth.
With gladness; singing.
For God that made you
made me
made us
we are God's;
no doubt, no questions
we are God's people,
the sheep of God's pasture.

Psalm 100

Psalm 42

The gates are open
we enter with thanks,
we enter with praise.
Give thanks, bless God
God has blessed you.

Love.
God's love forever,
Adoration.
God adores us
Can we not adore God, all generations?
How can we possibly not adore God?

I join with the earth
A joyful noise and a joyous song
and praises sung.
with instruments and voice,
with sound and sign,
with words and silence
with the sea and the thunder
with the rain and the leaves
the frogs and the whales
with the hills and the pines

Psalm 98

God is righteous
So we rejoice
In psalms
For life
In life
Of life.

Bless the Lord,
O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless God's holy name.
And know that to God
all praise – our praise
must be offered

Psalm 103

In thanks and in love
For all and from all
Bless the Lord,
O my soul,
and forget not –
we must not forget –
all God's benefits

So collect our songs,
And collect our praise
Lift your thanks
And call it all good.
For just as the psalms conclude
So also must we
In nothing ...
but praise.

In God's sanctuary – praise
in God's mighty firmament – praise!
Praise God's mighty deeds;
God's surpassing greatness!
Praise God with trumpet sound;
with lute and harp!
Praise God with tambourine and dance;
with strings and pipe!
Praise God with clanging cymbals;
with loud clashing cymbals!

Psalm 150

When nothing else is left
Let everything that breathes praise God!

Amen.