THE IMPORTANCE OF CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
MATT MERKER (Excerpt)

The New Testament describes singing as a corporate activity. A hallmark of those who are filled with the Holy Spirit is that they address "one another" in song (Ephesians 5:19).

Why? Because singing is an avenue for Christian love. Consider Colossians 3:16, Paul’s famous teaching on singing, in its broader context:

Above all, then, let what you hear be a word of grace for one another, enabling edification. (Colossians 3:16)

But there are countless threats to the unity of the body (Colossians 3:6–9).

So Paul says to the Christian to consider himself in light of these commands:

Ephesians 5:19–20..."Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Psalm 100:5..."Sing to the Lord a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise.

Romans 12:12..."Be joyful in hope, patient in suffering, persistent in prayer.

1 Peter 5:14..."Pray in the Spirit and sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, praising God with gratitude in your hearts to one another.

The New Testament delineates the following reasons for individual and corporate singing:

I. singing as a way to show love for each other
II. singing as a way to prepare the way of the Lord
III. singing as a way of helping others

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

I Sing the Mighty Power of God • Mike Doll, Solo

Congregational Greetings

Equip U / Equip Them

The Morning Sermon

Conrad “Buster” Brown, Senior Pastor

THE OFFERTRY PRAYER

THE OFFERTORY

I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD • MIKE DOLL, SOLO

CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

EQUIP U / EQUIP THEM

THE MORNING SERMON

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I. singing as a way to show love for each other
II. singing as a way to prepare the way of the Lord
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Singing is a key means of expressing one’s faith and a means of growing in one’s faith. It is a means of sharing the joy and love of the Lord with others.

But singing in a church can also benefit those who are outside the faith by calling attention to the beauty of the gospel message. It can be a powerful means of witness to those who do not know Jesus Christ. For instance, singing about the love and power of God can be a powerful witness to those who do not know Jesus Christ.

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PRELUDE
ELENA CRUDEGE, ORGANIST

MORNING WELCOME
AND ANNOUNCEMENTS VIDEO

THE CALL TO WORSHIP
MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE • EBCIC CHOR

Praise Him! Hosanna!
Make a joyful noise unto God
Sing the glory of His name
Let all people sing for joy
Let them sing from happy hearts:
Praise Him! Hosanna!

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS’ NAME

THE SCRIPTURE CALL TO WORSHIP

Biblical worship is always a response to God’s gracious revelation of Himself to His people. Therefore, our worship services begin with a scriptural call to worship that is the content of the “call to worship” from God’s own Word spoken in song by the leader and congregation.

Our worship, there is a reflexive and deliberate response to His gracious call.

THOUGHTS FOR WORSHIP PREPARATION

These three things—lack of excitement with the gospel; disappointment with God and with Christianity; and taking on the traits of my treasure—rather than the character of Christ—can rip the mask off of the costume kingdom in your life. But it’s about being called to follow a King. – Paul David Tripp

My knowledge of that life is small, the eye of faith is dim; but I’m enough that Christ knows all, and I shall be with Him.

— Richard Baxter (1615 - 1691)

THE SCRIPTURE PROCLAMATION
BASED ON PSALM 145

LEADER: We will extol you, our God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day we will bless you and praise your name forever and ever, for the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

CONREGATION: There is no end to His greatness!

LEADER: One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wonderful works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and we will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the tidings of your power, and shall extol you, our God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

CONREGATION: Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, Bless His holy name!

O COME MY SOUL, BLESS THOU THE LORD TIDINGS

If life be long, I will be glad, I will be thankful, and my soul shall be sad to welcome endless days. For if Thy work on earth be sweet what will Thy glory be!

Come, Lord, when grace hath made me meet Thy blessed face to see;
For if Thy work on earth be sweet what will Thy glory be!

Then I shall end my sad complaints and weary sinful days, and join with the triumphant saints that sing my Savior’s praise.

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THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Therefore we join you voices with all the creation to proclaim the glory of God and in honor of the 90th birthday of Claire Willett by Linda Stout.

Let us praise Him with a joyful noise! Hosannah!

CONGREGATION: Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, Bless His holy name!

...Sing to the Lord, bless His holy name forever and ever. Every day we will bless you and praise your name forever and ever, for the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

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