

St John Church of Christ

October 18, 2020

ONLINE

Our programs are available over the internet starting Sundays at 10:30 for Adult Class and 11:00 for Worship. The programs will also be available to watch online later. Just visit

www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org

and select “Sermons” from the menubar at the top, or visit [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

Adult Bible Class

James, the brother of Jesus, wrote one of the most down-to-earth letters in the New Testament. Join us online every Sunday as John McKeel shares from his recent book, *James the Brother of Jesus Speaks*.

LIVE!

Worship

11:00 - 11:45 A.M.

We're meeting at the building again live starting at 11:00 A.M.

Feel a Thought



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. – Paul, Colossians 3:16, 17

“Where words leave off, music begins.” –Heinrich Heine

Why does God want us to sing? If all we are supposed to do is “teach and admonish one another,” then it would seem a good sermon or Bible class would be far more appropriate than singing.

“Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent.” – Victor Hugo

While a lesson appeals to our intellect, music is played with our hearts (Ephesians 5:19), and

the heart is a powerful thing. You can reason with a mind, but not so much with the seat of feelings. Perhaps that explains why we feel so strongly about our tastes in music.

My Orthodox friends love the ancient monophonic chants. And because they feel so strongly about their style of music, they believe four-part harmony distracts from the sacred texts with its unnatural ornamentation. So should we only chant?

On the other hand, my young Millennial friends long for total immersion in the worship experience. Their ears are delighted with overwhelming explosions of sound. Their eyes watch colorful backdrops of pictures moving with the beat of the music, and their whole body shakes with the tactile experience of rhythmic

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movement, clapping and lifting holy hands. For them, worship in song involves as many different senses as possible. Simple song is drab in comparison.

My southern Sacred Harp friends delight in camp meeting choruses and shape notes, while my sophisticated choral friends believe in offering only the best music to God. Perfect pitch, spot-on timing, and virtuosity are the keys to a successful performance before God. Nothing else will do.

So what kind of music does God enjoy? Chants? Stately hymns or rambunctious praise? Perhaps the answer can be found in *Who God is: our Father*. And I know Fathers love the music of their children, especially when that music comes from their loving hearts.

“Be filled with the Spirit, making melody to the Lord with your heart,” –Paul, Ephesians 5:18, 19

“Words make you think. Music makes you feel. A song makes you feel a thought.” – E.Y. Harburg

Wise Words

Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of President Franklin Roosevelt, was one of the most amazing women who ever lived. Just listen to some of her quotes:

- The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.
- Happiness is not a goal; it is a by-product.
- With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.
- A woman is like a tea bag - you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.
- It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness.

Sermons in a Paragraph

I heard a story about a little boy who was sitting under a farmer's apple tree. The farmer came up & said to him, “Little fellow, what are you doing here? Are you trying to steal some of my apples?” The little boy replied, “No, sir! I'm trying real hard not to.” That describes our battle well. It's not that we're trying to do what's wrong; we're trying not to. But temptation makes it difficult for us not to do what is wrong!

You may remember the old joke on “Hee Haw,” where Doc Campbell has a patient who says he broke his arm in two places. The doc says, “Well then, stay out of them places!” We can't put ourselves into the very face of temptation and not be affected. We know what our weaknesses are. When faced with the problem of temptation, we need to take the doctor's advice and “stay out of them places.”

News, Notes & Prayer Requests

Little two-year-old Maren's second transplant is doing better. She has come home, but is still undergoing extensive care. In addition, her sister and her grandfather have been diagnosed with Covid-19. Please continue to pray for her and her entire family.

Camelia Clark, a Christian who has been very active in supporting our mission to Singapore, has requested our prayers. She lives in San Diego and is suffering health issues and has also lost her job.

John's best friend from high school, Paul, has just been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Please pray for Paul and his wife, Bernice.

A Place for Pictures

