

Psalm 100

- ¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
- ² Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
- ³ Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
- ⁵ For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Announcements

1. RCD Kids Volunteer Training: 3/14 11am -12pm

Psalm 100 | 1 Year Anniversary in Berkeley

Jesus Saves. This is the news that we're here to proclaim.

Humanity's biggest problem is that we are estranged from God in our sin, and doomed to die apart from him suffering his just wrath forever. But God took on flesh in Jesus Christ, so that he could take on the wages of our sin, death. Then he gave us his Holy Spirit so that we might be transformed from death to life in him.

This is beyond helping. This is beyond getting us back on the right track. This is salvation.

Salvation is something you think you want until you need it. What you want is a clean path to walk down, with clearly marked signposts at each major decision. But we don't call it salvation unless your backs up against the wall. A through hike on a clearly marked trail involves no rescue. You need to be saved when your lost, and you can't find the trail, and its too cold to make it through the night. That's when we start to call it saved. If you don't like having your back up against the wall, then Christianity probably isn't for you, because we worship a God who saves.

Abram, is promised offspring from the Lord. But he only gets offspring when he and Sarai never could have conceived on their own. Why? Our God saves.

Abram has the knife lifted above his son Isaac before God reveals the ram for the sacrifice. Why? Our God saves.

Joseph is promised he will be a ruler over even his family, but Joseph is sold into slavery, falsely accused of adultery, sent to prison and forgotten before he is made king. Why? Our God saves.

Moses is born in the middle of a genocide against Male Hebrew babies. Why? Our God saves.

Pharaoh refuses to let the Israelites go, and once he finally concedes he changes his mind again and chases the Israelites until their backs are against the sea. Why? Our God saves.

God leads his people into the wilderness where there is no water, or food and then provides Manna from heaven and water from the rock. Why? Our God saves.

God promises David the Kingdom, and then makes him violent target of the current king of Israel. Why? Our God saves.

Jesus is born in the middle of a genocide against Hebrew boys. Why? Our God saves.

Jesus sets his sights to go to Jerusalem, is betrayed, arrested, beaten, hung on a cross. His back was up against the wall and he wasn't saved, he dies. Why? Our God saves.

He rose again on the third day, to show that sin could not hold him down, that death was defeated, and that all who come to him could be saved. Why? Our God saves.

We are all bound up in sin, unable to free ourselves. Why? Our God saves.

Why? Why salvation. Because God desires to enflame your hearts to worship him. You were made to worship him. And the response to salvation is worship.

Psalm 100

- ¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
- ² Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
- ³ Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
- ⁵ For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Let me tell you about our church. Redemption Church Denver.

We were born out of a church with a long fruitful history that ended in a bitter breakup. That happens sometimes. Our church had no 501c3, no name, a lead pastor with no experience, and a very expensive lease. Every month was existential. But every week we had a church. Why? Our God saves.

Not a moment too soon the church building was sold and we moved to afternoon services. 4:30pm. That ones on me. I'm sorry about that. A wounded congregation, trying to figure out what the politics was in the background, discerning if we could be trusted, gathered together at 4:30 on Sunday evenings. Why? Our God saves.

Our lease was coming up for 4:30 services and after putting together an Elder Board of absolute masochists who will suffer greatly on your behalf for the joy set before them, we set our sights to find a neighborhood to move into. At 4:30 services we prayed together in small groups that way if we had a visitor we would ensure they would leave. Why? Our God saves.

We set our sights on a particular mortuary in Berkeley that was already under contract and set to be destroyed. Why? Our God saves.

We decided to take a flyer on Berkeley, and start meeting in the school right next door. Pop up church in the opposite corner of the city. Less convenient in every way. Why? Our God saves.

Six weeks later the building that was set to be torn down, changed hands. Historic Berkeley Regis had been working on it the whole time. And we carried our portable church across the parking lot and into this building and had a pizza party. The next Sunday we had a huge service and invited the neighborhood, and the next week we closed down for COVID. Why? Why take us on such a journey, open a door to a place so clearly, and then close us from even being able to meet here? Why? Say it with me. Our God saves.

It's been a year Satan. But guess what? Our God saves.

We're called here, and I know it. I know it like I know the sun will come up in the morning. Why? Because God backed us in to to many corners so that we would know it was Him who did the saving. He guided us through his salvation.

So how do we proclaim that Jesus saves to this corner of our city? We respond to our salvation in worship. Enter his gates with thanksgiving. His love endures. I hope your bring your own brunch is a feast this morning. A feast to the Lords faithfulness. Let's sing, then let's eat.