

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 03 May: David speaking

Sunday 10 May: Church service

Sunday 17 May: Malcolm - Phil

4.10-23

Thursday 21 May, 8 PM: Third Thursday Prayer:
08:00 PM. ID: 988 3430 9524. Passcode: 332426

[https://zoom.us/j/98834309524?](https://zoom.us/j/98834309524?pwd=wONcU85ShjGHpjWkjA24icjW3jiLU.1)
[pwd=wONcU85ShjGHpjWkjA24icjW3jiLU.1](https://zoom.us/j/98834309524?pwd=wONcU85ShjGHpjWkjA24icjW3jiLU.1)

Sunday 24 May: Church service

Sunday 31 May: Malcolm speaking on the Trinity

Sunday 07 June: Church service

Sunday 14 June: International Service

Thursday 18 June, 8 PM: Third Thursday Prayer:

Events further ahead

Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th May: UK & Ireland mature singles retreat – "Trust In The Lord". Penny & I are the guest speakers for this event. Please pray for us.

Friday 24th to 27th July: ICCM Preteen Camp

Saturday 25th to 31st July: ICCM Teen Camp

Saturday 20 to 24 August: Thames Valley Teen Camp

Friday 11th - 13 September: UK & Ireland Young Professionals Retreat in Chesham.

Sept 30th - Oct 04th: Spirituality Retreat. <https://shop.thewayministry.global/2026-csr/home>

Friday 30th October to Sunday 01st November: Autumn Student Retreat for the UK & Ireland.

Thursday 12-15th November: UK, Ireland and Nordics leadership retreat.

Disclaimer: This edition was printed in advance, so please note that some event dates may have changed and may not be fully updated above.

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth." Psalm 100:1

One of the things I value most in our congregation is that we enjoy worshipful singing. Let's see how Psalm 100 might help us to take this higher both in singing, but also prayer.

The best-known hymn based on this Psalm is "All people that on earth do dwell". But there is another by that famous hymn writer Isaac Watts. The first two verses connect with the global call to praise:

1. Sing to the Lord with joyful voice,
Let every land his name adore;
The British Isles shall send the noise
Across the ocean to the shore.
2. Nations, attend before his throne
With solemn fear, with sacred joy;
Know that the Lord is God alone;
He can create and he destroy.

Let's break this down into the three primary phrases of Psalm 100 v1.

1. Shout for joy

The Hebrew word translated "shout for joy" is 'rua'. It means to raise a battle cry, sound a trumpet blast, or shout in triumph. We are not offering a moderate expression of joy. We are expressing an almost uncontained and definitely unconstrained exclamation.

Because there is joy, there is a shout.

Is energy missing in our prayers because life is tough? Or is it because we have misplaced the source of our joy?

Is there less volume in our corporate worship because we don't like the songs? Or have we lost connection with the one about whom the songs are written?

When our joy goes missing, it's time to reconnect with the Lord.

2. To the Lord

Is the Lord our primary source of joy? Is he the one on whom our hopes rest?

My broadband gives me faster download speeds than upload speeds. This causes me frustration when I upload large files. But it makes sense because I am even more frustrated when trying to watch something online and the dreaded buffering fills my screen.

I do well to be more concerned about what I'm 'downloading' from God, rather than what I am 'uploading' to him. If I'm downloading the right stuff then I will have what I need to upload.

The shout of joy is offered to the Lord. There is a big difference between praying to hear my own words as opposed to praying to the Lord.

3. All the earth

What does, "all the earth" mean? Is the Psalmist hoping that all people will shout to the Lord? Or is it an even bigger vision than this? Is it that all of creation will praise Yahweh? The Psalm immediately before this one gives us some ideas.

In Psalm 99 the nations "tremble" (v1) because the Lord reigns. The Lord is "exalted above all the nations" (v2).

The vision of Psalm 100 is that the nations who tremble will recognise the exalted nature of the Lord. And they will come to worship him with gladness.

Do we have the same vision in our prayers? Do our times of corporate worship contain a strong sense of vision that the good news is not only for

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us? Is it not also for all around us and all who inhabit this globe?

Let us pray for our family, friends, neighbours and nations who are far from God.

Conclusion

Today, and this week, why not explore 'shouting' to the Lord because of the joy he has given you. Pray not only that you can enjoy this joy, but that the whole earth will share in your ability to rejoice. Focus your prayers on the Lord more than on yourself.

Why not explore the Psalm? Pray over it, meditate on it. Let it sink into the mind and the heart.

Question

What gets in the way of shouting for joy to the Lord? What helps you to be exuberant in your praise of God?

Your brother, Malcolm

If anyone would like to contribute to the Watford Word please let me know. Articles about scripture, poetry, personal devotional reflections, good news, prayer requests, testimonials and more are all welcome.

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ
HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

Account Number: 04759613



Watford Media

