

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

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=wONcU85SbjGHPjWkjA24icjW3jIgLUI)

[pwd=wONcU85SbjGHPjWkjA24icjW3jIgLUI](https://zoom.us/j/98834309524?pwd=wONcU85SbjGHPjWkjA24icjW3jIgLUI)

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.

"Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs."

Psalm 100:2

We continue our exploration of Psalm 100 by moving on to verse 2.

"Worship the Lord with gladness; Come before him with joyful songs." (Psalm 100:2 NIV11)

The New Bible Commentary (IVP) sees this verse as intimately connected with verse 1. We have three invitations in these two verses: to shout, worship and come.

We dealt with "shout" last time. Today we will consider the invitations to "worship" and "come".

1. Worship the Lord with gladness

To worship is to serve. Some translations have the word "serve" here. As Warren Wiersbe said, "Joyful noise leads to joyful service".¹ Why are we glad in God's service? Because, just as the Israelites were liberated from their slavery in Egypt, we...

"...have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness." (Romans 6:18 NIV11)

Hence, we delight to offer ourselves in worshipful service,

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." (Romans 12:1 NIV11)

Are you grumpy about serving God? Perhaps you have forgotten God's mercy. Are you moody

¹ "Prayer, Praise and Promises", Baker Books, p250

when joining your brothers and sisters in corporate worship? Perhaps a prayer for renewed gladness would be appropriate before entering the building. Resist the temptation to be like the older brother who found little about which to be glad and refused to join in the gladness of his younger brother and his father (Luke 15:32).

Refresh yourself with the correct vision of the future. We have much to be glad about:

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready." (Revelation 19:7 NIV11)

2. Come before him with joyful songs

We are invited into the very presence of God. The word translated "before him" is the Hebrew word 'paneh'. It means 'before' and 'face'. In other words, we are coming face to face with God.

That's a wonderful invitation for us. All the more so for an Israelite, who knew he could not see God's face and live (Ex 33.20). Although no one may literally see God's face in this life, God is signalling his desire that we would know him personally. And he is signalling his vision that one day this will be the case.

What could be more appropriate, when coming face-to-face with God, than to sing joyful songs? One of the ways we serve God is by coming together to worship him in song.

The implication of the "joyful songs" is that we sing with confidence. Not confidence in our musical ability, but singing without hesitation. We do not hesitate in singing to God because we are confident in his mercy to us and, as we see in verse three, confidence in our acceptance as God's people.

Conclusion

Today, and this week, why not explore serving God with gladness? Take some time to reflect on

how lucky we are to be able to come face-to-face with him. Make it your intention to sing joyfully the next time you participate in collective worship.

As "The preacher's outline and sermon Bible" puts it,

"In a very practical sense, this psalm teaches us the actual purpose of the church: to joyfully express praise and thanksgiving to God, to present ourselves for God's service, and to urge all people of the earth to come into a relationship with God through His Son."

Question

What gets in the way of serving the Lord with gladness? What helps you to be joyful in your singing?

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

