

PSALMS OF HOPE

@UnitedChurchFerdown

United Church Ferdown's 2023 Lent Programme

Sunday 26th March
Lent 5

Sermon+

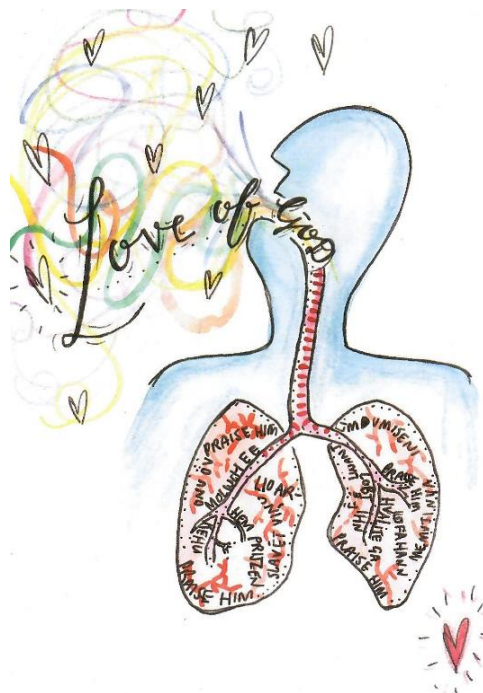
PSALM 89

PRAISE THE LORD!



Pray:

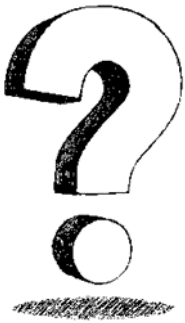
We come before the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives. We need not look up to find God, we need only to look around: within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another. We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God, we need only listen to the music of life, the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat, the revelations found in his word. Be with us now as we explore this psalm some more. **Amen.**



Introduction:

I wonder what type of person you are? Are you someone who finds it easy to praise or easy to complain about something?

I was chatting to a deacon this week who had asked me how my week was going. Honestly, it had felt like a really busy week, even though we were only half way through that busy week and unbeknownst to me, I was at the start of a cold! I felt tired. I felt weary. So I was telling them how busy it had been. But then I stopped, because the opportunities I had had that week were really encouraging. It was great to be able to share some of the things that I had been doing and it was good to be able to praise God for what He was and is doing!



Questions

I wonder whether you find it easy to praise God?

Do you praise God when everything is going well or do you lose sight of Him because things are going well?

Do you praise God when things are difficult or do you find yourself struggling to get past the difficulty to God?

Do you praise God in the ordinary, day to day or do you find yourself too busy, too tired, too...(fill in for yourself) ?



Read:

Psalm 89:1-8 (NIV)

¹ I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations.

² I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant,

⁴ 'I will establish your line forever
and make your throne firm through all generations.'" [\[C\]](#)

⁵ The heavens praise your wonders, Lord,
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

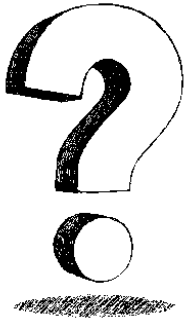
⁶ For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord?
Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings?

⁷ In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared;
he is more awesome than all who surround him.

⁸ Who is like you, Lord God Almighty?
You, Lord, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Consider the Psalm

The first part of this psalm is an interesting one. The psalmist is saying "I will sing..... i will make known..... I will declare". He is sharing with us how he is praising. And what is he sharing in multiple forms? That God is full of steadfast, never ending love that stands firm forever. He is praising God for his unending faithfulness, and proclaiming that God is incredible! Worthy of praise. Who can compare with our God? And why is he praising? Because of that covenant relationship that God made with David. It's a covenant relationship He makes with us too, when we choose to give our life to Christ.



So, how, what and why.....

How do you praise God?

The psalmist mentions singing, making known and declaring but are there other ways/more creative ways that you use or could use to praise?

What are you personally praising God for today?

And why?

Take time right now to ponder where you are at in your journey of faith and your relationship with God. What has enabled you to get to this point?



Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for music, for art, for all that is beautiful in our lives. Thank you that you welcome these things as part of our praise. In fact, they are part of the image we have of worship in heaven. We pray that you will help us as we are unable to praise you together. Help us to be creative, to use all the talents and abilities you have given us as we respond to your love.

When our lives are difficult and we find it hard to praise you, please help us to focus on your holiness and to keep our eyes fixed on you.

Amen.

Miriam