



Heartbeats along the way: The Joyfully Singing Heart

Psalm 84:2. My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Singing joyfully is a hallmark of United Methodism. It's part of both personal and corporate worship. Indeed, John Wesley wrote some 'rules' for Methodist singing that are still very useful. Psalm 84 expresses the hunger for and joy of worshiping in God's sanctuary. It ends with these words: "No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you." For the next days, please join me in praying and singing with joy, thanking God for all the good gifts we have received. For me that means thanks for my life and all its adventures, whether I understood them or not; thanks for family by blood, by marriage, and by communion with Christ. Thankfulness for short term immediate blessings, and for those overarching blessings that encompass my life. And thankfulness for the inspiration and progress of our Spring Garden Campus, and all who labor for its completion. Try writing down the gifts you're thankful for and put the list somewhere that you may glance at them regularly or even add more. I've left space on the back to start.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, may this psalm remind us of the joy we share in singing the praises and majesty of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

"God of our Forebears, let us sing joyfully of Your majesty, kindness, and the good things you have given us as persons and as a church family. We especially thank you for the new Worship Center You are creating for us. Help us to appreciate this great gift and opportunity to worship You and serve Your children, our sisters and brothers, with the love and grace you bestow on us. Amen."

~ cl reynolds

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed. For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.