

**The Benevolent God of the Psalms  
An Anthology of Verses from the Psalms by Steve Tomlinson & Hymns of Praise  
to the Lord**

**Call to Worship: Psalm 100**

**Prayer: Alex Crowell**

**Introduction to our service: Over the past year, our brother Steve Tomlinson has been doing a special personal study of the psalms, focusing on the things in them that are said about God, and especially the benevolent acts of God as they are described there. He has put these sayings, with some slight editing, into an anthology of verses that he recently shared with me. I thought it would be an excellent basis for one of our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday singings to read this wonderful collection of thoughts about God and to sing the wonderful songs of praise we have based on them. I thank Steve for sharing his work with us and allowing me to edit it for our worship today. (Today in Mark's absence I will be leading the singing; and Brother Doug will be reading the narration from the psalms.) As usual, the song numbers will be on the screen or you may use the outline on page two of the bulletin. I hope we will all be edified by the worship as we focus on God.**

**Today our theme is the benevolent God of creation as He is described in the Psalms. The psalmists celebrated the many characteristics of God's nature. Today we will focus on His benevolent acts toward His creation:**

**The Psalmists celebrate the Lord's exalted nature as king of kings.**

*The Lord is in heaven on His throne in His holy temple.  
Great is the Lord and great to be praised; and His greatness of unsearchable.  
All nations who you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord,  
and shall glorify your name. For you alone are God.*

***Sing: #19 (1,3)***

*Your throne, O God, is established from of old: you are from everlasting:  
Holiness adorns your house forever.*

*The Lord Most High is awesome; He is a great king over all the earth forever  
and ever; for His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; and His years will have  
no end.*

***Sing: #38 (2 times) (4.11)***

**The Psalmists celebrate the Lord's righteousness and justice.**

*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne; for the Lord is  
good and upright; He guides with justice, and all His paths are mercy and  
truth.*

*Your judgments are righteous and your law is everlasting truth.*

*Forever, O Lord, your word is settled in heaven: your truth and faithfulness endures to all generations.*

**Sing: #61 (6.12)**

**The Psalmists celebrate the Lord as Creator of the whole universe and all that is in it.**

*Let the earth fear the Lord. Let the inhabitants stand in awe of Him. For He spoke and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast.*

*The Lord made the heavens and the earth and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. For the Lord spoke and the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.*

*The day is the Lord's; the night is also His. He has prepared the light and the sun. He counts the number of the stars and call them all by name.*

*He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap, and lays up the deep in storehouses. The waters stood above the mountains; At your rebuke they fled; at the voice of your thunder they hastened away. They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, to the place founded for them.*

*You set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to cover the earth.*

*Great is our Lord; and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.*

**Sing: #76 (v. 1,2) 9.18**

*Our God has set all the borders of the earth; He has made summer and winter. O Lord, you preserve all men and beasts.*

*The Lord God causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes the lightning for the rain. He brings the wind out of His treasures.*

*The Lord God sends out His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly. He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes. The Lord cast out His hail like morsels. He sends out His word and melts them. He causes His wind to blow, and His waters to flow. Who can stand before His cold?*

*O Lord, how manifold are your works. In wisdom you have made them all.*

*The earth is full of your possessions—the great wide sea in which are innumerable teeming things, living things both small and great. There is the Leviathan which you made to play there.*

**Sing #6 (v. 1,2,4) 13.0**

**The Psalmists celebrate the Lord's provision for His creation.**

*The Lord covers the heavens with clouds, and prepares rain for the earth. He makes grass to grow on the mountains. The Lord God sends the springs into the valleys; they flow among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. By them the birds of the heavens have their home. They sing among the branches. You water the hills from your upper chambers. So the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your works.*

*The Lord causes the grass to grow for the cattle and vegetation for the service of man, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine that makes glad the heart. The Lord planted the cedars of Lebanon in which the birds make their nest; the stork makes her home in the fir trees. The high hills are for the wild goats; the cliffs are a refuge for the rock-badgers.*

*You make darkness and it is night, in which all the beasts of the forest creep about. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their food from God. When the sun rises, they gather together and lie down in their dens. Man goes out to his work and to his labor until evening.*

*These all wait for you to give them their food in due season. What you give them, they gather in. You open your hand; they are filled with good. You satisfy the desire of every living thing.*

**Sing: #57 (v. 1,3) 17.8**

***The amazing thing about God's creation is that although God in His goodness has provides for every part of His creation, providing not only food for physical life, but also food for spiritual life, man stands alone among God's creation as rebels against His creator. Yet God remains committed to the creation He made and ...***

**The Psalmists celebrate the Lord's grace and mercy toward the sinner.**

*As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting to those who fear Him.*

*As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him; for He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.*

*The Lord is gracious, longsuffering, and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever; because He is good and ready to forgive all those who call upon Him in faith.*

*The Lord has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. He takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him. As far away as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

*O give thanks to our God who is in heaven! For He is good and faithful; and His mercy is everlasting. Amen.*

**Sing: #129 (v. 1,2,4) 21.12**

***These thoughts from the psalms and these songs remind us of the Lord's longsuffering and compassion toward us in our sin. Just as the psalmists celebrated the forgiveness of God, so we too should remember and give thanks for it. The Lord's Supper is a reminder of that new covenant of forgiveness in which the Lord has promised, "Their sins and their iniquities***

*I will remember no more.” The bread is the body of Christ which was given as an offering to God in our behalf. The fruit of the vine is the blood of the covenant shed for the remission of sins. Let us remember this as we break bread: 22.13*

### **Lord’s Supper (10 minutes)**

**The Psalmists celebrate the Lord’s blessing upon the righteous.**

**As the psalmists thought about God, they could see how blessed they were to be His people. They often spoke in their songs of the many blessings He had provided for them:**

*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delights in His way. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all.*

*There is no want to those who seek and fear the Lord; for they shall not lack any good thing.*

**Sing: #66**

*The Lord has set apart for Himself him who is godly; for He blesses the righteous, and He will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. For the Lord will not forsake those who seek Him, because He preserves the faithful.*

*The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are open to their cry. The righteous cry out and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.*

*For the mouth of the righteous man speaks wisdom; he talks of justice. For the law of His God is in his heart. He receives salvation from the Lord who is his strength in times of trouble; and the Lord shall deliver him from the wicked, because he trusts in Him.*

**Sing #83 (v. 1,2,4) 25.30**

### **The Call to Praise the Lord**

**Surely all these things give us every reason to praise God. The psalmists thought so and constantly urged God’s people to praise Him:**

*Praise the Lord! Praise God in His mighty firmament! Praise Him for His mighty acts. Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.*

*O Lord God, you are very great; you are clothed with honor and majesty, who covers yourself with light as with a garment.*

*To you who by wisdom made the heavens; who stretched them out like a curtain;*

*To you who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever,*

*To you who made great lights—the sun to rule by day, the moon and stars to rule by night,*

*To you who waters the earth; who greatly enriches it, who provides the grain and blesses its growth.*

*To you be glory, and honor, and praise forever.*

**Sing:#97 (v. 1,2) 28.07**

**Invitation:**

*The Psalmist has given us many reasons to fear, love, and serve God. Are you doing these things? Do you not recognize Him as your creator? Have you not benefited from all His provisions? Do you not see His goodness in providing for all His creatures? Have you not sinned against Him and do you not also need His forgiveness?*

*We urge then today to make Him king in your life, to receive the many blessings He offers you. Seek Him and receive His forgiveness.*

**Sing #924**