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Psalms Seminar "Re-tuning the Lyre"

Calvin Symposium on Worship

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First Presbyterian Church

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Calvin Symposium on Worship 2011
C5: Psalms Seminar 'Re-tuning the Lyre' by Karen Campbell

Brief history of Psalms in Presbyterian Church in Ireland worship

New Ideas

1. Partial re-tuning: Changing tunes around Psalm 98 (tune Here is Love, Come thou Fount of every blessing)
2. Setting up song writing workshops e.g. Psalm 103
3. Reviving already existing pieces e.g. Psalm 100
4. The Portglenone Psalms e.g. Psalm 65 for Harvest using tune 'we plough the fields and scatter', Psalm 137 to tune 'Abide with me'
5. Complete retuning: Psalm 51 as a lament using words from Eugene Peterson's 'The Message'
6. Psalm settings very loosely based around a particular Psalm motif e.g. Psalm 61 and its christological depth
7. Chamber Choir pieces, Jonathan Rea's Psalm 42 'Longing'
www.newvoicemusic.com
8. Other ideas: finding psalms to be used in pastoral care (Resting in God Ps 23; Ps 62; Ps 121 Seeking Guidance Ps 25; Ps 27; Ps 32; Ps 37; Ps 119 Illness Ps 41; Ps 103 Old Age Ps 37; Ps
9. Using a Psalm to frame a complete service of liturgy e.g. Psalm 121
10. Having prayer stations around the church based on the Psalms

Psalm 98

Sing a new song to Jehovah,
For He wondrous things hath wrought;
His right hand and arm most holy
Victory to him have brought.

Lo! The Lord his great salvation
Openly have now made known;
In the sight of every nation
He his righteousness hath shown.

Mindful of his truth and mercy
He to Israel's house hath been;
And the Lord our great salvation
All the ends of earth hath seen

Sound the trumpet and the cornet,
Shout before the Lord the King;
Sea, and all its fullness thunder;
Earth, and all its people, sing.

Let the rivers in their gladness
Clap their hands with one accord;
Let the mountains sing together
Joyfully before the Lord

For to judge the earth He cometh;
And with righteousness shall He
Judge the world, and all the nations
with most perfect equity.

Psalm 65 (7.6.7.6.7.6.7.6.6.6.8.6) Dresden
(We plough the fields)

- 1 Praise waits for You in Zion!
O God, we'll keep our vow.
- 2 O You who hear our praying,
To You all men will bow.
- 3 When sins had overwhelmed us,
You came and You forgave.
- 4 The ones You choose are blessed, Lord;
You bring them near, and save.
We are filled with good, from
The temple of the Lord;
- 5 You answer us with awesome deeds,
In righteousness, O Lord.

You are our God and Saviour,
To earth's most distant length.
- 6 Your power has formed the mountains;
You've armed Yourself with strength.
- 7 You stilled the roaring waters -
The crashing of their waves,
The turmoil of the nations -
You are the God who saves!
- 8 All the farthest peoples
Now view Your works with fear;
Where morning dawns and evening fades,
You call forth songs of cheer.
- 9 It's You who tends the meadows,
And waters them each day.
It's Your hand sends earth's riches -
And so abundantly.
The streams of God are flowing
With water every morn;
For so You have ordained it,
To give the people corn.
- 10 You drench all its furrows,
And smooth its ridges down.
You soften it with gentle showers,
And bless its crops all round.
- 11 You crown the year with bounty;
Your carts just overflow!
- 12 The grasslands of the desert,
They never cease to grow.
The hills are clothed with gladness,
- 13 And flocks have filled the plains.
Ripe corn has decked the valleys;
They shout and sing again!
- 3 When sins overwhelmed us,
You came and You forgave.
- 4 The ones You choose are blessed, O Lord;
You bring them near, and save.

SERVICE BASED ON A PSALM 121

(A service of stillness and reflection)

Introduction Introit by choir "Be Still and Know that I am God"
 Alternatively played by a solo instrument violin/ flute

Call to Worship Psalm 23: verse 1 – 3a ending He restores my soul

Praise Be Still for the Presence of the Lord the Holy One is Here

Prayer: Reflective prayer of Adoration with time for silent confession.

OT Reading: Psalm 121 Possible use of the Message

Praise: Metrical Psalm 121 followed by
 Modern Version I lift my eyes to the quiet hills

NT Reading if required One of the passages which tells of Jesus going to a quiet place to pray whichever is felt most appropriate

Brief Interview with three people who live with noise in their lives

1. Someone whose workplace is noisy eg farmer, factory worker, shop assistant where canned music is played
2. A mother with young children or noisy teenagers
- 3 Someone who suffers from Tinnitus or has a hearing problem

Two questions How does noise impact your day to day life?
 How do you find a place of peace to meet with God?

Praise: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Sermon based on Psalm 121 with a challenge to Look Up to see God, To Look in on our noisy busy lifestyle, to Look Around at the needs of a busy world, and Look Out to where we are going to change.

Time of quiet reflection while offering is taken. Band or piano/organ to quietly play "I will offer up my life"

Prayers of Intercession to reflect our commitment to a quieter lifestyle, to prayer for people who struggle with noise, Christians in prison for their faith, missionaries who live in a gold fish bowl existence where their lives are open to all etc.
Maybe use Taize " Lord hear my prayer" as response.

Closing praise " Come people of the Risen King" or
 " What a friend we have in Jesus"

Benediction