

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

# The Reason We Sing

TUNE: Ye Servants of God (HANOVER)

Psalm 42:1-3; 63:1; 100; John 15:9-12; Philippians 3:7-11; 1 John 3:1

♩ = 92

G G  $\frac{G}{B}$  D G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  Em  $\frac{Am}{C}$  D G

1. Cre - a - tor of all, our Sov - 'reign, our Lord,  
 2. Our Fa - ther, our help, our hope and our joy,  
 3. We hun - ger and thirst with rest - less de - sire  
 4. To all those You love, we of - fer Your grace,

D G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  Em<sup>7</sup> Em<sup>6</sup> D  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G  $\frac{D}{G}$  A<sup>7</sup> D

How great is Your love! How might - y Your Word!  
 The deep, set - tled peace no change can de - stroy,  
 For Bread and for Breath, for wind and for fire.  
 The touch of Your hand, the light of Your face.

B Em  $\frac{Am^6}{E}$   $\frac{B}{D\#}$  Em  $\frac{D7}{F\#}$  G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$   $\frac{A7}{E}$  D

Our Sav - ior, our shep - herd, our champ - ion and king,  
 Our weak - ness and need are the of - frings we bring.  
 We long for the life that no oth - er can bring.  
 Your good - ness and joy are the gifts we would bring.

WORDS: Ken Bible  
MUSIC: William Croft

HANOVER  
10.10.11.11.

Alt. Tune: LYONS

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Bm CM<sup>9</sup> D<sup>7</sup> Em Em<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>F#</sup> G C Am D D<sup>7</sup> G

To praise You, our God, is the rea - son we sing!  
 To strength - en our faith is the rea - son we sing!  
 To know You, O God, is the rea - son we sing!  
 To lift up Your love is the rea - son we sing!

TOPICS: Faith; God's Love; Knowing Christ; Praise & Worship

LEAD-IN: *Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

*Worship the Lord with gladness;*

*come before him with joyful songs.*

*Know that the Lord is God.*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;*

*we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving*

*and his courts with praise;*

*give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;*

*his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

(Psalm 100, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

## The Value of Singing

I love singing hymns--hymns of many types and styles. Singing is such a beautiful way of expressing the Word that Christ has planted in us. As we sing, we share that Word with each other. We affirm it together. And we lift it in praise to our God and Savior.

Augustine (and later, Martin Luther) said, "He who sings prays twice." I never understood that statement until I began singing as part of my prayer life. Singing involves the entire being. It starts from the heart and catches up the mind and body as well. When we sing, we embrace God's Word physically, mentally, and emotionally. Prayer rises from our whole selves.

As we trust the Word that God speaks to us, joy overflows, and singing is one spillway for that joy. Singing is the music of faith. I've long felt that if we have the truth, *saying* it is not enough. The truth longs to come to life. It cries out for full expression. It yearns to sing and dance, to celebrate with life and feeling and physical joy.

Singing does that. Singing sets the truth free.

Singing unites us. Think of what's happening when we sing together in worship. The Word of God is in our hearts and minds and on our lips. We lift it to God together. We unite with each other and with Him.

Hymns express our beliefs about God--our theology--but they do so in terms that are heartfelt and life-centered. Yes, abstract, factual hymns have been written, but they generally don't last. The hymns that God's children love to sing are those that speak their faith with warmth and vitality, in a way that resonates with personal experience.

Hymns are a feast for the body, mind, and spirit. Enjoy them completely! Don't just listen to hymns. Sing them! The most life-changing songs are not the ones we hear but the ones we sing. As Paul urged the young church in Colosse, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16, NIV).

Sing! Sing to God! Sing from your heart!