C2: Singing Psalms: An Outpouring of Contemporary Song for Congregational Use

Alison Adam, Alfredo Colman, Wendell Kimbrough, Isaac Wardell, moderated by Greg Scheer

Remarkably, even since the publication of *Psalms for All Seasons* just a few years ago, over 30 new Psalm-based songwriting and recording projects have emerged from a variety of contemporary worship leaders across North America and beyond. While some of these settings are designed for solo voices, many are well-suited to congregational use, and are worthy heirs to the legacy of congregation-based Psalms re-established by Luther and Calvin. Come to explore a variety of examples of this music, as well as the stories behind the songs. In addition, to consider new songs you might use in your context, come ready to explore how you can shape a worship culture in your context that is eager to embrace and explore the rich texts of the Biblical Psalms.

Introduction:

Rejoice In All Your Works (Psalm 104) O God, You've Searched Me and You Know Me (Psalm 139) Although We Are Weeping (Psalm 126) Te exaltaré, mi Dios, mi Rey (Salmo 145:1)

Why the Psalms?

Issues to Explore:

Wendell – Singability and congregational participation
We Long to See You (Psalm 24, Wendell Kimbrough)

Alfredo – The music of the Psalms: folk rhythms
Alabad a Jehová/Praise the Lord (Psalm 107:1, José Daniel Verstraeten)

Alison – Psalms of suffering and justice Oh Great God and Lord of the Earth (Psalm 94, John Bell/El Salvador) I Cry to God (Psalm 77, John Bell)

Isaac - Psalms of lament and darkness
O God of My Salvation/Can the Dead Rise Up to Praise? (Psalm 88, Chris Juby)

Songs to Sing:

6

Psalm 113 (From the Rising of the Sun, Sandra McCracken) Te Alabaré, Señor (Psalm 9) Oh Give Thanks (Psalm 107)

More Songs to Check out Later:

9	The Hope of the Poor (Wendell Kimbrough)
9	Te alabaré, Señor
9	Oré mboriahú
12	Lying lips that falsely flatter (Adam Tice, in
	PFAS)
13	How Long O Lord? (John L. Bell and Graham
	Maule)
19	Aleluya (del Salmo 19)
19	Sean gratos los dichos de mi boca
23	Shepherd me, O God (Marty Haugen)
27	Jehová es mi luz y salvación
37	Do not be vexed (John L. Bell)

My eyes are dim with weeping (Alison Adam)

- 19 Aleluya (del Salmo 19)42 Como el ciervo
- 43 Send Our Your Light (Sandra McCracken)

- 46 Dios es nuestro amparo (traditional)43:3 Send out your light (John L. Bell)
- 51 Create within me a clean heart (Alison Adam)
- 62 I'll Not Be Shaken (Wendell Kimbrough)
- 62 On God alone I wait silently (John L Bell)
- 63 O God you are my God alone (John L. Bell)
- 97 Our Song in the Night (Michael Van Patter)
- 116 I love the Lord (John L. Bell)
- 122 I was glad when they said to me (John L. Bell)
- 133 Mirad cuán bueno y cuán delicioso es
- 133 Miren qué bueno
- 136 Alabad al Señor (C. Guevera)
- 136 Alabad al Señor porque él es bueno
- 146 Sing Praise to God (Marty Haugen, with strong echoes of the Magnificat)
- 150 Alabad a nuestro Dios en su santuario

REJOICE IN ALL YOUR WORKS (PSALM 104)

WENDELL KIMBROUGH



O God, You Search Me

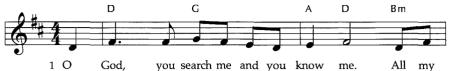
You dis -

you have

still I

gave me





- 1 O God, 2 You know
- you search me and you know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.
- 3 Be fore 4 Al - though

you

- a word is on my tongue, Lord, your Spir - it is up - on cre - at - ed me and shaped me,
- BmAsus Α

thoughts cern known search

life

5 For

lie o - pen to your gaze. pur - pose from my a far, its mean-ing through and through. for shel-ter from your light. with - in my moth - er's womb.

When I and with You are There is For the



love ev er - last - ing you be - siege me: in ev-ery be - yond my with me un - der - stand ing: God of my where on earth I e - ven the can es - cape you: der of who I I safe in your won am, praise you:



ment of life or death, you are. mo pres ent, my past, and fu ture, too. dark ness ra - diant your sight. hands, all cre - a - tion made new.

Psalm 139 is one of the most introspective and most intimate of all the psalms, showing an acute mindfulness of God's presence in all aspects of one's life. Sometimes resisted, this omnipresence ultimately becomes a ground of hope, a promise that we never stray beyond God's care.

Psalm 126

Bifrost Arts



Te exaltaré/I Will Exalt

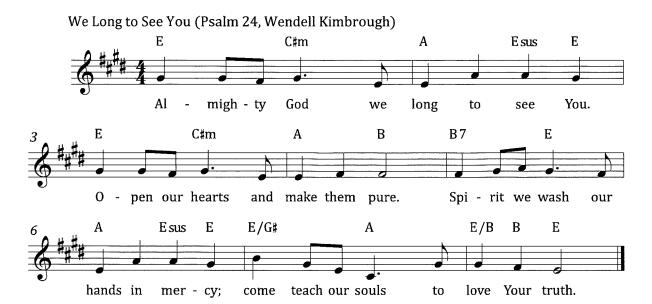
PSALM 145:1-5



For other settings of Ps. 145 see 561, 562

Words: Casiodoro Cárdenas, 1979; tr. composite; st. 2 tr. Mary Louise Bringle, 2011 Music (ECUADOR irregular): Casiodoro Cárdenas, 1979; arr. Raquel Mora Martínez, 1979, © Raquel Mora Martinez





The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.
He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

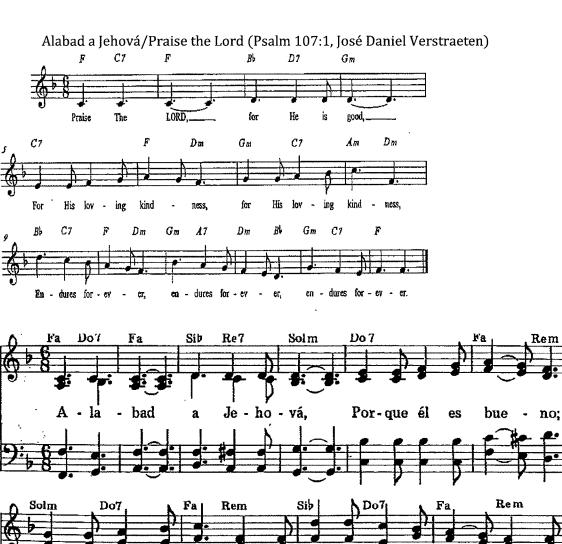
Lift up your heads, O gates!

And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

refrain © 2015 Wendell Kimbrough





Letra, Salmo 107:1. Música PUNTA INDIO, José Daniel Verstraeten. © Copyright 1978 Casa Bautista de Publicaciones. Todos los derechos reservados. Amparado por los derechos de copyright internacional.

293 O Great God and Lord of the Earth

PSALM 94



Words: Psalm 94; para. and arr. John L. Bell © 2002 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent

Music (VOS SOS EL DESTAZADO 8.9.8.9.8.9): Guillermo Cuellar © 1996 GIA Publications, Inc.; acc. Marcus Hong © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc.



Optional prayer of lament

God of justice and mercy, in our pain and sorrow, help us to hold on to your sure promise that you will never leave or forsake us.

Give us courage to forsake revenge, to testify to the beauty of your justice, and to place our hope in you. Amen.

Optional prayer of confession

God of justice and mercy,
we confess that we, too often,
are arrogant and indifferent.
We are the guilty.
We have sinned by what we have done
and what we have left undone.
Clothe us in Christ's righteousness
and teach us to act justly, to love mercy,

and to walk humbly with you. Amen.

I CRY TO GOD (WGIR)

par. of ps. 77 by John L. Bell, © 1996, WGRG, Iona Community

I cry to God and he hears me; in my time of trouble I seek him. By night my hands plead in prayer, but I find nothing for my comfort.

I think of God and I moan; I meditate and feel useless. God keeps the sleep from my eyes, and my speech is lost in confusion.

I thought of days gone by, and remembered times now vanished. I spent the night in deep distress while my spirit murmured within me.

Will God reject us forever? Will God refuse us his mercy? Has endless love reached an end? Are God's promises now invalid?

Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has anger doused his compassion? Has God's mighty arm lost its grip? Does it hang powerless beside him?

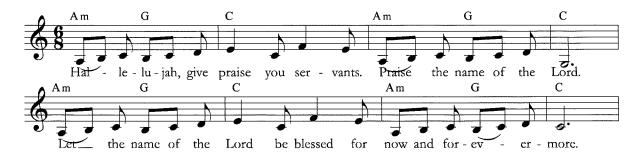
Let me now remember God's work and recall his wonderful greatness. Let me meditate on his power and remember all God has done.

O God of My Salvation/Can the Dead Rise Up to Praise? (Psalm 88, Chris Juby)

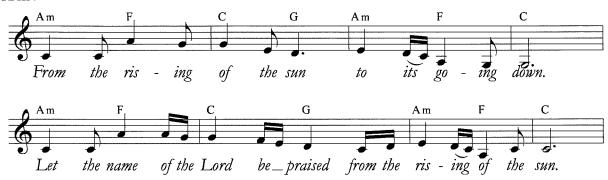


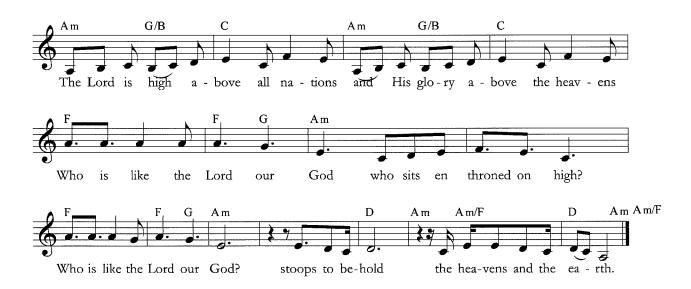
2014 Chris Juby www.chrisjuby.com

Psalm 113 (From the Rising of the Sun, Sandra McCracken)



REFRAIN





Sandra McCracken 2014. Drink Your Tea Music. used by permission.

Te alabaré, Señor/I Will Exalt You, LORD



Tune: ECUADOR - Celebremos @1992 Libros Alianza



OH GIVETHANKS! (PSALM 107)

