



Clear the Air: What's the Fuss About Church Music?

Selected Verses

English Services

(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

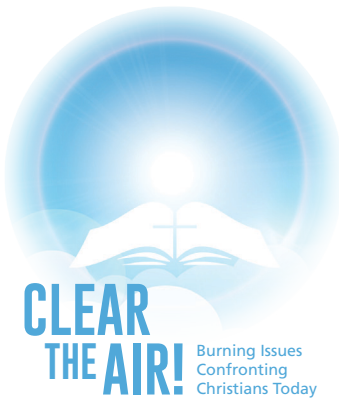
Prelude
 Call to Worship
 Worship through Praise
 Worship through Fellowship
 Worship through Giving
 Testimony
 Scripture Reading
 Worship in the Word
Pastor Dags Miguel
 Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
 Tawag sa Pagsamba
 Pagsamba sa Pag-awit
 Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
 Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
 Patotoo
 Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
 Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Arnold Perona
 Pangwakas na Panalangin
 at Basbas

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



20/21 January 2018
 Vol. 40, No. 3



Clear the Air: What's the Fuss About Church Music?

Today's Message (13/14 January 2018) /
Selected Verses / Message Prepared
by Dr. Lazaro Pabiona

WHEN WE
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GOD.

Music is a precious gift from God, designed to uplift the thoughts to high and noble themes, to inspire and elevate our souls. It is one of the most effective means of impressing the heart with spiritual truth. As part of our Worship Services, singing is as much an act of worship, just like prayer is. Indeed, many Christian songs are prayers.

But music choice in church can be a very delicate subject. Some of you, for example, ask, "Why are we still singing hymns?" while others ask, "Why are we singing Contemporary Christian Music (CCM)?" Another group wants to know "Why are we using drums?" while another group asks, "Why are the lights still on during praise and worship? That's not how they do it at (insert favorite comparison church here).

To clear the air about these questions, the principles in this message are our biblical foundations for congregational music. May they also guide not only your personal music choices, but also your personal worship of God:

1. THE MINISTRY OF CHURCH MUSIC IS PRIMARILY TO GLORIFY GOD.

All music the Christian listens to, performs, or composes, whether sacred or secular, should glorify God: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (*1 Corinthians 10:31*). This is the overriding biblical principle.

The principal direction of congregational singing is to the Lord (*Psalms 96:1*). Music is made first of all to the Lord. It should communicate and express a sense of awe and wonder in the presence of God; it should lead our thoughts toward God rather than toward ourselves. The content of our songs should be guided by the following principles:

- a. Our song lyrics should be God-focused.
- b. Our song lyrics should promote a high view of God.
- c. Our song lyrics should be Biblically sound.
 - Does it point to God/Christ? What Christology is expressed?
 - Are the words understandable or confusing?
 - Is it culturally sensitive to our particular context? (i.e., Does it obviously distract or enable people to worship?)

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Giving

Worship in Music

Doxology

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

Pastor Arnold Perona

Response Hymn

Benediction



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- Does it substitute sentimentality or romanticism for biblical truth? (songs that sound more like love songs, with little or no reference to God)
 - Do the words call into question the rampant narcissism of our present-day culture? (e.g., "I" focused songs that focus on our feelings rather than on God)
- d. Our song lyrics should complement, not compete with the pulpit.

2. THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC IS FOR EDIFYING BELIEVERS.

Since people remember the theology they sing better than the theology that is preached, a congregation's repertoire of songs is of critical importance in shaping the faith of its people.

It is the lyrics that is of primary importance. It is through the lyrics that God's people learn of the nature and character of God and of the Christian life. That is why the Apostle Paul vows, "I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also" (*1 Corinthians 14:14-15*).

3. THE EMOTIONAL IMPACT OF MUSIC IS A VITAL AND MOVING AID TO WORSHIP.

Music, independent even of lyrics, is capable of evoking powerful emotions. Hearts are stirred and feet set to tapping by a rousing song, while another melody may move people to tears. It is, therefore, important that the emotional mood of a particular tune be commensurate with the sense of the text. The tune must serve the text.

John Calvin warned: "We should be very careful that our ears be not more attentive to the melody than our minds to the spiritual meaning of the words...Songs composed only for the sweetness and delight of the ear are unbecoming to the majesty of the church and...displease God in the highest degree."

4. THERE IS A SERIOUS DANGER IN OVER-CONTEXTUALIZING CHURCH MINISTRY.

Over-contextualization is when everything has to be the latest beat, latest feel, and latest look in order to please the "seeker." At some point, when we're thinking more about pleasing the seeker than we are about pleasing the Savior, we've tragically distorted Bible worship.

5. MUSIC SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO THE AUDIENCE.

Everyone knows that different songs should be used in ministering to children than to adults. Yet few understand that not all groups of adults appreciate the same kind of music.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Remember that every hymn was once "contemporary" and shocked the people of that time. In building a repertoire of the best, we should include not only the best of today but the best of all ages, the best of our culture as well as the best of other countries, the best from our denomination along with the best from other denominations. Using such variety will remind the congregation that God's church extends past our walls and past our time!

Our GCF worship tradition has always emphasized both head and heart: worship as a response of the mind till our hearts are moved emotionally towards praise, conviction, passion, and service for Christ. When we intentionally choose music that reinforces and stretches biblical faith, and moves hearts toward Christ, then we will more and more enjoy worship that has authenticity, integrity, and, most importantly, is glorifying to God ■

MISSIONARY HOME PARTNERS

Last year, the Missionary Care Team (MCare) has initiated the creation of what we call Missionary Home Partners (MHPs). An MHP is a team composed of individuals from multiple Growth Groups and ministries who commit to work together to be the support and care team for the missionaries we send.

An MHP team commits to partner with a missionary. Its team members are assigned with various tasks—coordination, advocacy and mobilization, intercession, and many other possible kinds of help that can be offered based on the abilities of the members. Hopefully, by having an MHP, we are able to do Missionary Care that addresses all aspects of well-being of missionaries and their dependents. These include spiritual, emotional, relational, physical and economic matters.

So far, however, only three—Phoebe Guerra, Joy Miguel, and the Tirona family—amongst the 36 missionaries and missionary apprentices we have sent out have a committed MHP team. We are praying that each one of our missionaries will have Growth Group members or even whole Growth Groups stepping up to commit to be partners in the Lord's work through them. If you, your family, or your Growth Group are thinking of a way to be involved in missions, this is a great venue to start. By being part of an MHP, you are directly involved in the work of the missionary out in the field. If you would like to be involved in an MHP, please let us know (contact us through +63 932 371 3457). We can help you as

you pray about it and introduce you to missionaries who need an MHP.

PRACTICAL WAYS TO CARE FOR A MISSIONARY

When we think about partnering with missionaries, we are prone to associate the concept mainly with financial support. Missionary care, however, is much larger than finance. The main involvement when we partner with missionaries is prayer and relationship. By praying for the missionary and establishing a deep and mutually caring relationship with him or her, we are able to better support them in their work.

There are many ways to express this kind of partnership. Here are some examples:

- Promoting their prayer letters/ items
- Helping with the maintenance of their house while they are away
- Keeping in touch with them through social media/calls
- Encouraging their children
- Sending them encouraging letters/packages
- Providing transportation when they go out and come home
- Visiting them in the field
- Listening to their stories over coffee

These are just a few among many others you can do. Think creatively! If you don't know a missionary and are interested to be connected to one, please let us know through the number above, or through emortortigas@gcf.org.ph ■

2018 PRAYER JOURNAL

A 40-day prayer journey to GCF's 40th Anniversary

The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. — Romans 8:19

God has called His creation good, manifesting the peace and harmony, and the life and beauty of its Creator. It points to the wonder and power of God, carrying the message of God's divine provision and sustenance. The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.

But man overstepped in the created order, and missed the mark of God's righteousness. Sin brought death and decay taking both humanity and all of creation hostage.

However, God who is full of compassion and justice, sent His Son. Through Christ's death and resurrection, He reconciled all creation to Himself and brought salvation to those who believe. Salvation does not mean leaving all the spoiled, decaying and dying things of this earth. To be saved means to be restored as His image-bearers. As God's sons and daughters, we restore and cultivate life and beauty in His created world.

As the Lord promised never to curse and destroy, let us be part of the fulfillment of that promise. As we have committed this year to pray for the prosperity of our city, let us move forward into calling forth for the good and the beauty of our city. Let us take part in conserving and cultivating the created order, in prayer and in mission.

Let it be our prayer that the goodness and beauty of God take shape in our lives and in the work of our hands ■

Regular Prayer Gatherings

- GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.
- Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.
- January Concert of Prayer
January 27 (Sat.), 5-6 p.m.

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



Greenhills Christian Fellowship's 40th Anniversary Service

Sunday, February 11, 2018
at 10:00 a.m. (*one service only*)

*There will be no traditional service on Saturday, February 10.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

January 2018

	January Budget	Received, Jan. 1-17
General	9,510,844	4,809,719
Missions	1,008,500	330,635

	Jan. to Dec. Budget	Received, January
General	100,208,208	4,809,719
Missions	12,102,000	330,635

MISSIONARY UPDATES

Are you interested in partnering with our missionaries in prayer? You may sign-up with your details at the Ministry Information Booth to receive their regular prayer and praise updates.

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness and mercy by the Messiah College.

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Would you like to read our weekly church bulletin on your mobile device? Just sign-up with your e-mail address at the Ministry Information Booth at the lobby and we will send it to you.





Love God, love others.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Marjorie Jo might have lost her parents early in life, but she found God's graciousness expressed to her in familial love through the JOY Women's Fellowship.



Marjorie started attending the fellowship in 2014. She was drawn to it because she learned much from the practical discussions that are catered to women, learning lessons from married and older women even though she is single and younger. But in time, she was also embraced by the warmth of motherly love from the "Titans" of the fellowship, as well as sisterly love from those in the same age bracket as hers.

Marjorie eventually grew in her love for the women in the fellowship, learning to express a love that she was never able to give her parents to the more senior women in the group. And though they know her to be working as a staff in the church, she was always welcome to join in the fellowship.

Most importantly, though, is how she grew in her love for God through the fellowship. She saw that although many women in the group are advanced years, they never ceased in their worship of God. She is amazed by their God-given steadfastness, and she is encouraged to press on because of the testimony of their lives ■

ON THE COVER: The Church Music stained glass window at St. Matthew's German Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Carolina, featuring important figures in the history of church music (user Cadetgray, Wikimedia). **Ambrose of Milan** (4th century) is credited to have promoted the use of Psalm-based response singing in the churches, while **Gregory of Rome** (6th century) is believed to have invented the Gregorian chant, the default church singing style for a millenium before the Reformation. **Martin Luther**, unbeknownst to many, was a prolific hymn-writer (e.g., *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*) and pioneered the use of hymns to teach theology to common people. **Johann Sebastian Bach**, was a prolific musician who wrote music inspired by the life and works of Martin Luther.

Join a GROWTH GROUP

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE Y-GROUP

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., and 4:30-5:30 p.m.

At GCF (Youth Center, 6th flr.)

ICU (Intimacy Care Unit) GG

for Couples aged 30 up

Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. at GCF (Rm. A109)

GREEN MEADOWS GG

for Couples aged 40 up

Every other Thursday, 8-10 p.m.

at Green Meadows Subdivision

NEW GG (GATHERING CONTACTS)

for Single Men and Women aged 21-30

Tentatively scheduled on Sundays,

3-5 p.m. at GCF

YACIES TUESDAY GG

for Single Men and Women aged 30 up

Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m. at GCF (Rm. BM07)

SPORTS GGs (THREE GROUPS)

for Boys aged 11 to 18

Saturdays, 12 nn.-3 p.m. at GCF Multi-purpose Gym (6th flr.)

Pass by the GGEX (Growth Group Express)!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room B123

Get a feel of what a Growth Group is like before you participate in one. Come and join us!

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357

Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **20/21 January 2018**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

THE GOSPEL

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory” *(Isaiah 6:3)*. **He requires holiness of us as well:** “Be holy, for I am holy” *(1 Peter 1:16)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” *(Romans 3:23)*.
Sin demands a penalty: “For the wages of sin is death” *(Romans 6:23)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” *(Romans 5:8)*. **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God” *(1 Peter 3:18)*. **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them” *(2 Corinthians 5:18)*.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” *(Romans 10:9)*.

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.