

WHEN STRINGED INSTRUMENTS ARE MENTIONED in the Bible, they are usually the harps and lyres David the Psalmist played. We may also be reminded of moving oratorios performed by professional orchestras. My mind goes back, however, to the string band in a country church in Minnesota in the 1950's. The church was organized by Swedish immigrants in the 1870's. Many of their descendants still spoke Swedish and those who couldn't still sang with gusto the Swedish hymns that had been translated into English. An early pastor had composed many of them. Music was in the people's blood and every congregational hymn was sung in four-part harmony.

In the fall of 1951, a rather sedate pastor had moved on to another church, and the new pastor and his wife arrived with great fanfare. Within months, they had organized more musical groups than any of us had ever imagined, including a string band—a collection of farm wives with home-permed hair, wearing sensible shoes and dresses. The pastor's wife would place her large square zither on the pulpit and the rest of the ladies would gather 'round with their guitars and mandolins. One of the guitar players had a low voice and carried the bass part. My mother played the tiple, a cross between a guitar and a ukulele, and sang tenor along with a few others. The pastor's wife's powerful alto voice carried that part alone, while several sang soprano, praising the Lord in inimitable style. I smile when I imagine their joyful, untrained voices blending with European opera singers, chanting natives from third world countries and even monotones from around the world, all praising God together around His throne in heaven one day.

The book of Revelation mentions harps in heaven. Whether we will all play them is unknown, but we do know that our praise around God's throne will be filled with "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power . . . unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever" (Revelation 5:13).

K.E. Horsley

Violin and flowers @Elnur, courtesy Shutterstock • Printed in USA

Praise Him

WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS

PSALM 150:4



Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

February 6, 2022

Call to Worship

Sounds of Hope

Invocation

Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn #493 Glory to His Name

Welcome and Announcements

Ron Marks

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship in Song

Hymn #583 You Are My All in All

Hymn #78 I Love You Lord

Offertory Prayer

Joe Morgan

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Special Music

Sermon: "Don't Try It Alone"

Scripture: 4:9-12

Pastor Don Mauldin

Hymn of Benediction

Hymn #630 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Shine, Shine, Shine!

Covenant News

YAH News

The YAH Group will meet Tuesday, February 8th at 10:30 a.m. at Covenant Church to discuss their future.

Covenant Ministries

Our ministry for February is the Gainesville Community Ministry.

*Their mission is **with God's help, seeks to provide compassionate emergency care for those persons who cannot help themselves. We further seek to provide, through education and support, the kind of assistance that will encourage those who can be helped to end a cycle of poverty and despair.** They specifically offer support with food, clothing, medical care, some financial support, and education.*

You, A Bible?

Christian, you are the world's Bible, the only kind some people ever read. How do others see the lines in your face? Are they frouchy frown wrinkles; or happy, trusting, friendly smile wrinkles? Do your feet walk in the ways of the world;; or as Christ would walk? And what about your tell-tale eyes? Do they send glaring messages of annoyance and hate; or do they say, "I'm concerned about you. I love you with the love of the Lord?" The billboard of our lives presents a message to a watching world. What kind of Bible are you?

Mildred Barger