

"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name" Psalm 103:1

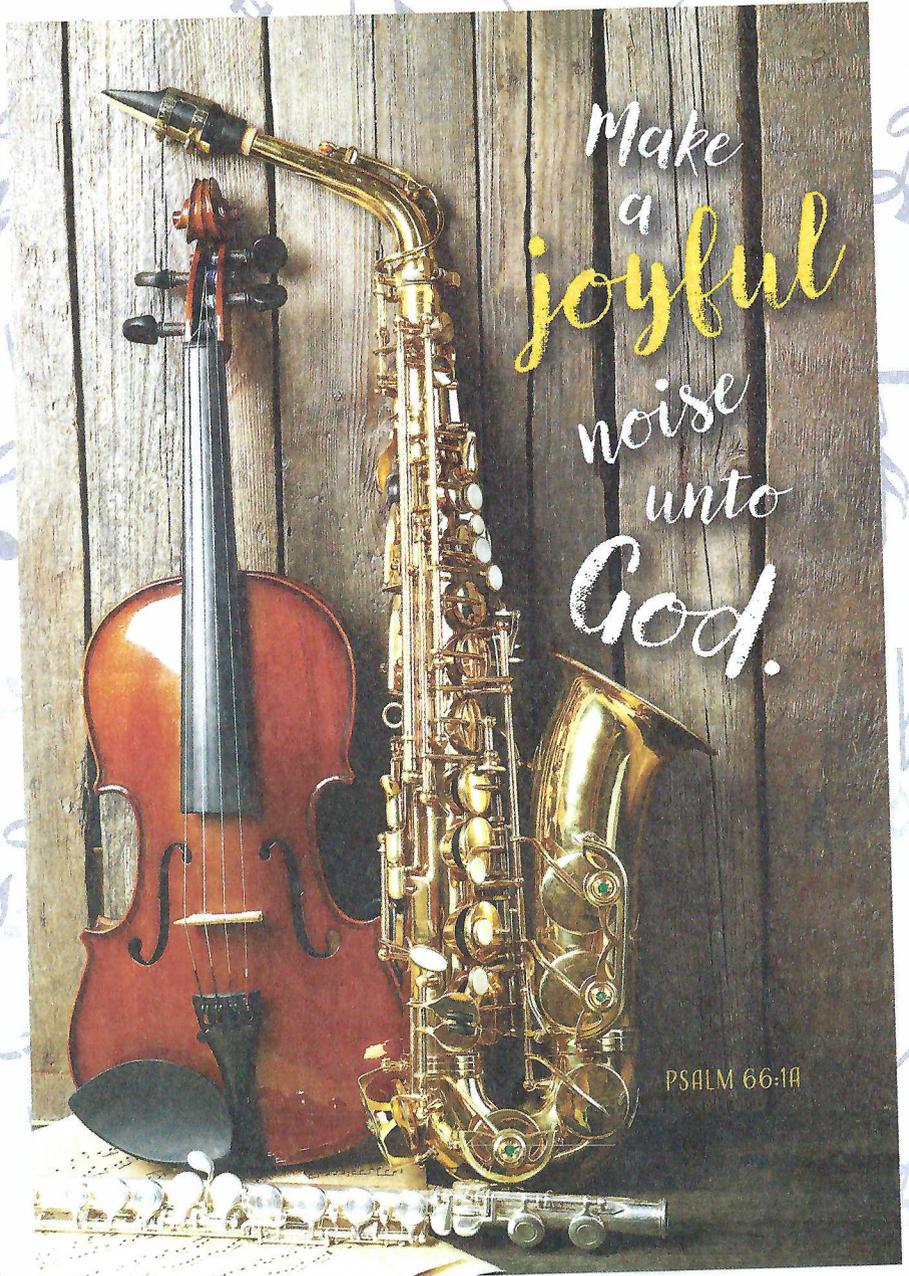
In describing Charles Haddon Spurgeon's classic devotional book, its current publisher says, "For more than 150 years, Morning and Evening has provided millions of readers encouragement, challenge, and thought-provoking insight from the pen of one of history's most beloved preachers, Charles H. Spurgeon. Spurgeon's sermons and other writing have touched countless lives, and his insight into perseverance through times of trial while relying on God's immeasurable strength still speaks to readers today."

In that book Spurgeon wrote, "A living, loving gospel sermon, however unlearned in matter and uncouth in style, is better than the finest discourse devoid of unction and power. A living dog keeps better watch than a dead lion, and is of more service to his master; and the poorest spiritual preacher is infinitely to be preferred to the exquisite orator who has no wisdom but that of words, no energy but that of sound. The like holds good of our prayers and other religious exercises; if we are quickened in them by the Holy Spirit, they are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, though we may think them to be worthless things; while our grand performances in which our hearts were absent, like dead lions, are mere carrion in the sight of the living God. O for living groans, living sighs, living despondencies, rather than lifeless songs and dead calms."

We ought always to do our best for Jesus, but our best will never be perfect, and Spurgeon's point is well-taken, that our praise should be a living praise, a joyful noise flowing from a heart of gratitude. Your musical talent might matter if you're singing an opera aria or the national anthem at a sporting event, but gathered together with God's people for worship, He is pleased when we praise Him whole-heartedly, though our praise may be simply "a joyful noise."

K.E. Horsley

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Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

January 26, 2025

Call to Worship

Sounds of Hope

Invocation

Pastor Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn #225 Come, Christians Join to Sing

Welcome and Announcements

Rom Marks

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship in Song

Hymn #214 He Has Made Me Glad

Hymn #78 I Love You, Lord

Offertory Prayer

Craig Alexander

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Special Music

Sounds of Hope

Sermon:

Pastor Don Mauldin

Hymn of Benediction

Hymn # 179 Awesome God

Shine, Shine, Shine!

Covenant Ministries

Our ministry for January is Family Promise. Since 1998, Family Promise of Gainesville has provided families experiencing homelessness with compassionate care that includes shelter, case management, education, housing, meals and transportation until they can transition to a home of their own.

Random Thoughts

To belittle is to be little.

Once you pass 40, your big break will probably be a bone.

Fun Definitions

Adult: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

Beauty Parlor: A place where women curl up and dye.

Committee: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

Yawn: An honest opinion openly expressed.

Wrinkles: Something other people have, similar to my character lines.