



Why Do We Sing on Sundays?

Series: Why Sundays? — A Look at Our Worship Gathering Practices

Big Idea: We sing together because singing is human, biblical, and formational. Through corporate worship, we respond to who God is and what He has done, while being shaped into the image of Jesus together.

Main Scripture: Psalm 96:1–2; Ephesians 5:18–20; Romans 12:2

Our Sunday gatherings are shaped by four things:

- Theological: What we believe about God and the Church.
- Cultural: The time and place we live in.
- Traditional: The history and practices passed down to us.
- Practical: Our resources, facilities, and community.

Some practices can change, while others are rooted in who God is and who we are as His Church.

This isn't about what every church should do, but why we do what we do together.

This week, we're asking: Why do we spend so much of our Sunday gathering singing?

We spend almost as much time singing as we do hearing the sermon. So why does it matter?

1. Singing Is Human

"Music is the universal language of mankind." — Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Music appears in every society and is connected to love, mourning, healing, celebration, and community.

People sing about what matters to them. Music expresses our emotions, stories, and shared experiences.

Throughout history, music has been used to express hope, resistance, gratitude, and spiritual transformation.

Examples:

- Black spirituals expressed hope and liberation through biblical themes.
- John Coltrane's *A Love Supreme* reflected a spiritual awakening.
- *Fortunate Son* by Creedence Clearwater Revival challenged the injustice of war.

Why does singing feel so powerful?

- Connection: Singing together builds a sense of belonging.
- Emotion: Music reaches parts of us that words alone may not.
- Physical response: Singing can reduce stress and improve mood.

Key Takeaway: We are emotional and physical beings, created by God. The way music moves us doesn't remove God from the experience; it reflects how He created us.

As Pentecostals, we believe experiencing God is a normal and important part of following Jesus.

Transition: The people of God have been singing together since the beginning.

2. Singing Is Biblical

Singing is woven throughout Scripture as a response to God's presence, promises, and mighty works.

A. Singing Is a Response to God

- Psalm 96:1–2 — “Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.”
- Exodus 15:1 — After crossing the Red Sea, Moses and Israel sang in response to God's deliverance.

Biblical Pattern: When God acts, His people respond in song.

God reveals Himself first.

God initiates, loves, delivers, and invites.

Our worship is a response to what God has done and is doing.

B. Singing Is Part of God's People Throughout History

The Psalms: Israel's songs of worship, lament, gratitude, and praise.

King David: Established musicians and singers in Israel's regular worship (1 Chronicles 15:16).

The Temple: Singers praised God, declaring His steadfast love (2 Chronicles 5:12–13).

Warfare: God's people praised Him in moments of battle and uncertainty (2 Chronicles 20:21–23).

C. Singing Continues in the New Testament

Ephesians 5:18–20

“Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.”

Singing is an expression of being filled with the Spirit.

We sing to the Lord and encourage one another through our songs.

Revelation gives us a picture of God's people singing before His throne (Revelation 14:3).

Key Takeaway: Singing isn't just a tradition we inherited. It is a biblical response to God's revelation and a part of the worship of God's people throughout eternity.

3. Singing Is Formational

The big purpose of our faith is to become like Jesus—together.

We are always being shaped by something. The words we hear, the stories we believe, and the songs we sing influence who we become.

A. Music Shapes Our Hearts and Minds

Songs tell stories and create worlds.

Lyrics get stuck in our heads and shape our imaginations.

Music teaches us how to respond to the highs and lows of life.

We should be discerning about what is shaping our souls.

Romans 12:2 — “Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Not every song needs to be explicitly Christian, but we should pay attention to what is forming us.

B. Singing Is a Confession of Our Faith

Romans 10:9–10 — We believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord.

We don't just think our way toward God; we also confess our faith.

When we sing together, we declare what we believe about God.

Our songs remind us of the story of Jesus and shape our understanding of the world.

Key Takeaway: When we sing together, we are making a shared confession of our faith.

C. Singing Unites Us as the Church

Our formation into Christ's image is not just individual; it is communal.

The Church brings together people of different generations, cultures, and backgrounds.

Corporate worship reminds us that we belong to something bigger than ourselves.

Carmen Joy Imes: The Church is a multicultural and intergenerational family, united in Christ despite our differences.

Key Takeaway: We don't just sing as individuals standing beside each other. We sing as one body, being formed together into the image of Jesus.

Conclusion: Why Do We Sing on Sundays?

We sing because:

- Singing is human — God created us to express our hearts through music.
- Singing is biblical — God's people have always responded to Him through song.
- Singing is formational — Our songs shape our faith, unite us, and help us become like Jesus.

When we sing on Sundays, we are responding to God, declaring our faith, and being formed together as His Church.

Study & Discussion Questions

- Why do you think music has such a powerful impact on us?
- How does understanding singing as a response to God change the way you approach worship?
- What are some ways the music you listen to shapes your thoughts and attitudes?
- How does singing together help unite the Church across different generations and backgrounds?
- What is one truth about God that you want to be more intentional about declaring through worship?

Practice of the Week

Be intentional about worship.

Pay attention to the words you sing on Sunday.

Reflect on what those lyrics teach you about God.

Choose one worship song this week and use it as a personal declaration of faith.

Goal of the Week

To approach corporate worship as more than music—to respond to God, confess our faith, and allow Him to form us into the image of Jesus together.