

“Break Out Into Joyous Song”

by Rev. John C. Tittle

Scripture Reading: Psalm 98 TNIV

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. ² The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. ³ He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. ⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; ⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, ⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn-- shout for joy before the LORD, the King. ⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. ⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; ⁹ let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your favorite hymn or worship song? What is one of your favorite songs or singers?
2. Why is music so important to us? What does it do for us?
3. This psalm is God's invitations to praise. Who is it that God invites to praise?
4. Why is tempting to stick with only the music we're familiar with? What's hard about learning a new song? How could this be applied to faith?
5. Why can/should we sing a new song, even if things are going lousy in life?
6. Why is it so easy for us to plug our ears to or to shoosh others who are singing a new song?
7. All the instruments—even all of creation—have the possibility of offering praise to God. How might this be a helpful picture of appreciating the body of Christ on a deeper level?
8. What might be a new song for us to learn to sing as a church? In our individual lives?
9. This passage speaks of how God is the ultimate judge. How can this give us hope and a new song?