



## **“Sing, and Make Music”**

Pastor Andy CastroLang

August 19, 2018

### **Scripture (ERV):**

#### **Ephesians 5:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> So be very careful how you live. Live wisely, not like fools. <sup>16</sup> I mean that you should use every opportunity you have for doing good, because these are evil times.

<sup>17</sup> So don't be foolish with your lives, but learn what the Lord wants you to do.

<sup>18</sup> Don't be drunk with wine, which will ruin your life, but be filled with the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Encourage each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord. <sup>20</sup> Always give thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Sermon:**

As many of you know, there is serious preparation that goes into our shared worship services, and the music and texts and preaching are meant to support one another.

A team of us gets together weeks in advance to look over the scriptures and the music, bat ideas around, hum songs, plan, and get a basic framework of music and texts together.

Verne and Janet, the rest of the team and I all agreed, what fun, to not just talk about the apostle Paul encouraging people to sing...but yeah, let's all sing!

<sup>19</sup> Encourage each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord. <sup>20</sup> Always give thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Charles Wesley, who, with his brother, wrote tons of hymns for the early days of the Methodist church, wrote that his friends should sing out with gusto, like they used to in the bars. He wrote “don’t sing as if you are dead” just cause you are in a church! Sing out!

Paul says something along that line, too. Don’t get drunk and then sing, sing full of joy and thanksgiving for all that God has done for you, stone cold sober.

And so, we planned to ask for favorite hymns and just have a little fun, singing a verse here, a verse there.

But then, the Queen of Soul died.

And I learned a lot more about Ms. Franklin than I had known before. I knew her through her songs that were played on the mainstream radio.

I didn’t know her daddy was a famous preacher, with a huge voice and a very successful ministry. That she sang and raised money for Dr. King, (she sang at his funeral), cut records that were all the gospel songs that she grew up with.

I didn’t know that her daddy was the first one to get her singing, in his church, as a little girl.

I didn’t know that he was the first one to support her stepping out into secular music.

Playing piano, she taught herself, and singing with such power!

Changing the world, with her voice and her songs.

Now, that is a witness to Paul’s teaching to the Ephesians!!

I know, yes, I know, that hers was a majestic voice, a delicious gift of song and power that is unique.

But she has inspired so many, and lifted the spirits and the hearts of so many!

Surely, whatever gift of song you have you should not waste it in enforced silence!

Whatever gift of music you have...whether it is twinkle, twinkle little star, or playing a kazoo...do not neglect that good gift! To sing is to be joyful-and joy is so much bigger than happiness-which comes and goes according to our moods-joy is hopeful and strengthens us for each new day-like songs do!

And in this same week, when the Queen of Soul died, I also had an email come across my computer from Amy Meredith, about the formation of a new community choir: an LGBTQ+ choir!

A choir for people who didn't know if there was a safe place to sing, maybe haven't sung in years, especially if one's voice is changing.

Well, there is such a choir now. For the LGBTQ+ community and Allies. They are called the Spectrum Singers, the Diversity Choir of the Inland Northwest!

“to sing and make music in your heart”! Surely it is a “God thing”!  
If you are interested, speak to Amy Meredith or me, after worship today!

What a gift it is. What a soothing, or stirring, triumphant or tender thing it is to make music, and to sing.

So, let us sing too...what is it that you would like to sing today, from inside our hymnal?

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Abide with Me