

**THOUGHT FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 20**  
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**Sing to the Lord, a new song.  
Sing his praises in the assembly of the faithful.  
O Israel. rejoice in your Maker.  
O people of Jerusalem, exalt in your King.  
Praise his name with dancing,  
accompanied by tambourine and harp.  
For the Lord delights in his people;  
he crowns the humble with victory.  
Let the faithful rejoice that he honours them.  
Let them sing for joy as they lie on their beds.**

**verses 1-5 of psalm 149. NLT.**

As Christians, we have a great musical tradition, from traditional hymns, which most of us grew up with and know:

Modern biblical worship songs.

Taize music, a prayerful form of music, known for its simple, yet rich and meditative character.

There are Gregorian chants which are used to accompany the text of the mass, usually in the Roman Catholic church.

Then we have the great choral tradition performed by a group of singers or a choir.

Gospel music seems to be becoming more popular today, even having its own competition every year on television.

I'm sure we all have our own particular favourite which we can relate to best.

All of these different styles of Christian music have been written to express either personal or a communal belief regarding Christian life and faith.

People who felt drawn to share the music that was inside them.

I think it is true to say that since God's word tells us to sing him a new song, that he has put at least one such "tune", something of our own, which we can offer to him - in each of us. Yes, even the most non-musical among us.

Through singing a new song, making a new melody to God, the psalmist gains a strength beyond his own.

I believe that music, whether it be our own, a friend's, or the sounds of nature, what we are able to listen to, or take part in, though not at the moment! it can all invigorate and restore us.

Last week, I discovered what it was really like not to be able to sing when I went to worship in church. Yes, I missed it and it felt unusual, but it was a new way and I'm sure God would have been receiving the praise of all the people from their hearts. It was lovely to just sit and listen to the music that was offered.

It may be that the psalmist sang a new song to God because God, as Creator makes all things new, or because God deserves something special, or simply because love

gives it's best. I wonder if God were to ask each one of us today- not for a stereotyped formal response; but something new- what would we give him? A hymn, or a song, maybe perhaps a melody without words, for the energetic, maybe a dance. For those who just can't get into tuneful efforts, maybe something we have made with our hands.

Would we then be prepared to use whatever spiritual strength arises from our offering,, as we continue to serve and work for God?  
For let's be assured that God will use what we offer in his name, for his glory.

Something of our own, which we can offer to Him, out of our love for him.

Love gives it's best.

### **Prayer.**

Loving, Eternal God, source of all beauty and harmony,  
we praise you for the gift of music;  
for the inspiration given to those who compose it  
For the skill and devotion of those who perform it ;  
for the faculties and powers, which enable us to enjoy it.  
and we pray that as by this gift our lives are enriched and renewed,  
so we may glorify you in a fuller dedication of ourselves,  
giving thanks always for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

### **Song.**

**King of the Ages, Almighty God.**  
*by Stuart Townend.*