

From Martin Luther, *“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music.”*

And then there is this from Luther, *“I have no use for cranks who despise music, because it is a gift of God. Music drives away the Devil and makes people joyful; they forget thereby all wrath, unchastity, arrogance, and the like. Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor.”*

And then finally we have this from Luther, *“Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.”*

There is more from Luther about music, but these quotes will suffice for now. I share these not because I am some great musician or vocalist (because I definitely am not). I share these because I like music and I like trying to make music. Recently, I released my guitar from its dark case and allowed music to reverberate across its strings. I learned to play at Bible camp about twenty years ago. I played a little bit in my first call, but my guitar had been in hibernation for about seven to ten years. This past Sunday, my guitar, “Ellie” (I like to name inanimate objects like vehicles as well) made an appearance. It was nothing special, but it was fun to praise God in a different way. It was fun to hear music reverberate across those strings. And even though I am not a professional or even a minimally accomplished musician, I am confident that God was pleased for Psalm 100 says,

*1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!*

*2 Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!*

*3 Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!*

*5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

Notice, there is nothing in there that talks about professional musicians or being on key. So, all you, who love the Lord, whether you are a “musician” or not, let

your song be heard. I promise you I will not judge. Sing to the Lord. Worship Him with gladness. Make His goodness known to all. Let your “noise” glorify the Lord. In Jesus’ name, Amen.