



Psalm 150

- <sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!
- <sup>2</sup>Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
- <sup>3</sup>Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!
- <sup>4</sup>Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!
- <sup>5</sup>Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
- <sup>6</sup>Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Behold, the entire content of the last chapter of Psalms. Make music to God every way you can. We, that is, churches, have been doing this with pianos since the 1700's. The full/original name of the piano, pianoforte, literally means soft-loud. The harpsichord, with its plucked strings, had no volume control. The piano did because the piano has "strike." The harder you press the keys, the louder the sound. Churches have been using pianos, soft and loud, to glorify God ever since. Of course, the use of the pipe organ in church can be traced all the way back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century in the time of Constantine, but pianos have an amazing voice of their own and also sound great with human voices. The piano also has the extraordinary quality of mimicking every instrument of the orchestra, calling forth the sounds of the lute, harp, strings, and tambourine.

Our old pianos have come to the end of their use. I have already told you this. Now I am thanking you for your contributions in helping us purchase new pianos of the highest quality in order to give glory to God in music as the Psalmist suggests. But a donor called this week, one who wished to remain anonymous, and said, "Please tell the congregation that our family will give a dollar for each dollar they give in order to collect the last \$22,000." If the congregation gives, \$11,000, so will this donor family, which will pay the remainder of our bill. That means for everyone who gives a dollar from this moment on, the church receives two, until we complete the campaign for \$88,000.

By purchasing the instrument in person from the factory in Queens, NY, the church is already saving \$8,000. If the purchase is made before December 31<sup>st</sup>, the church will be avoiding an additional \$5,000, as Steinway raises their prices each January in order to stay steady with inflation. As far as incentives go, we have both carrot (dollar for dollar) and stick (price increase).

If the collection goes well, our music department is planning a Thanksgiving Concert, appropriately, the Sunday afternoon before Thanksgiving. Kosumo Morashita and David Bedenbaugh will be in concert on our new Steinway Model B. The new Boston piano, by Steinway, will be introduced in worship in the Fellowship Hall that same Sunday.

So maybe you're asking, why is this in the Inspire? The answer is simple. Your generosity is inspiring to me, and I believe that through your generosity, you inspire each other. And I believe our music program inspires all who enter here to glorify God.

Yours in Christ, Ron

Next Week's Daily Bible Readings					
<i>Growing with God's Word in Wisdom and Strength</i>			Wednesday	September 26	Ecclesiastes 9: 13-10:20
Sunday	September 23	Ecclesiastes 5: 1-20	Thursday	September 27	Ecclesiastes 12: 1-14
Monday	September 24	Ecclesiastes 7: 1-25	Friday	September 28	2 Kings 22: 1-20
Tuesday	September 25	Ecclesiastes 8: 1-17	Saturday	September 29	2 Kings 23: 21-30