

A photograph of a person playing an organ. The organ is dark wood with white and black keys. The person is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. The organ is open, and sheet music is visible on the stand. The background is slightly blurred, showing other parts of the church interior.

# LET THE ORGAN THUNDER

By Bill Pugh

Psalm 150, a Psalm of Praise, urges the congregation to praise God with music and dancing. A variety of instruments make up the Temple orchestra and the praise must be loud. With respect, I would like to add the organ. Some would include others.

Organists are hard to find and encourage today. True, all kinds of musical instruments can contribute to worship. We should not forget the organ which sets the tone of a service, from joyous praise and thanksgiving to solemn meditation. Wonderful spiritual therapy.

It allows us to celebrate, express our grief, and unites us as one in worship. Great composers have written wonderful works for the organ. Very talented organists play them.

Sunday by Sunday our church organists assist our praise.

I want to mention just one, representative of many. In a country preaching place he began playing the organ when he was 10, had four years leave of absence during the war, and finished when he died in his 80s.

Sunday by Sunday, he played the old pedal organ. The vase of fresh flowers on top rocked when he pedalled loud praise.

Praise God for all who provide music for worship. For all serve the One: "Alpha and Omega he! Let the organ thunder, while the choir with peals of glee doth rend the air asunder." (Anon., 15th century, Percy Dearmer 1867–1936).

## Reflection:

*Lord, thank you for the dedication of all musicians and choristers who give so much to our songs of praise. Amen*