

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

By Barbara Allen



During lock down, many have missed gathering together and singing. Singing is a beautiful way we praise God. Singing is also beneficial, we usually feel better physically, emotionally, spiritually.

Perhaps we need to be more mindful of our feathered choirs. Every morning I wake up to the dawn chorus. They are my alarm, and much nicer than a mechanical ring! The magpies warble, the collared doves coo to each other, galahs and lorikeets join in. 'Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.' (Psalm 100) Birds remind me of congregations in another way. Lorikeets and rosellas are bright and colourful. Currawongs, blackbirds, and starlings are more subdued in appearance. All are different but together, they create a wonderful

community of colour, hues of light and dark, on God's canvas. Perhaps our time in lockdown has reminded us of God's many blessings, which include bird song and children's laughter.

As we wake in the morning, and give thanks to God for being alive, may our voices rise in praise, joining with choirs of angels, with feathered choirs, and with the whole of creation. There are crows and nightingales in every congregation (I'm a crow) but worship is not a concert. Each of us is a note that needs to be played in God's symphony.

So sing out loud (if you are physically unable-sing in your head and heart), don't worry if you are off key: God loves to hear you, and God made you that way!

Reflection:

What is your favourite hymn? Why? Sing that hymn today. If you are unable to sing, read it, pray it, or ask someone to read it to you. Singing Creator, we thank you for the gift of music. Thank you that Creation is your song.

Amen