

Make a Joyful Noise



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Greetings!

A little girl brought a friend to church with her. As they entered the sanctuary, the little girl said, "Now we have to be real quiet." When her friend asked why, she replied, "I don't know, but see those men over there? They're the hushers!"

This is a lesson most of us learned early and well. We have become both the hushed and the hushers. Whatever became of "Make a joyful noise to the Lord"?

A gentleman confided this story to me about his first Sunday service after attending an inspiring and meaningful spiritual retreat. After the sending "Go in peace to serve the Lord. Thanks be to God," he had shouted, "Hallelujah!" He said, "I don't know what anyone else thought, but I just had to do it! I had to say, 'Hallelujah!'"

Why should that be a surprising thing? Why should we be concerned that shouting "Hallelujah!" at an appropriate time in church should upset anyone?

Some congregations invite the children to bring forward "Noisy Offerings," but I'm not sure even those are accompanied by shouts of thanksgiving and other joyful noises.

I wonder what would happen if the pastor said, "Today during the offering, you may not put anything in the plate until you have told someone about the blessings God has given you this past week." Would the plates be handed quickly down a quiet pew, or would animated conversation occur, followed by more generous giving because the giving was accompanied by verbally recounting our blessings?

I wonder what would happen if we were invited to bring a noisemaker to church and to make a joyful noise during the offering. Imagine toots and honks and drums and clangs amid lots of laughter and even some applause. The Bible tells us this is an okay thing to do. In fact it is stated as a command. Oh for some joyful noisemakers and their joyful noise!

Blessings in Christ!

Shirley