

TFTD L7 Jubilate Deo

Thought for the Day: Tuesday 15 March 2022



Psalm 100, verse 1

*O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.*

What makes you glad?

Which moments of your life are most filled with joy?

Which are the times when joy “takes you out of yourself”?

I think of times when a grandchild holds my hand and asks me all sorts of questions. (Well, actually the grandchildren have moved more into adolescence now, so from that blessed time of being regarded as the fount of all knowledge I think I have moved more into being one of those adults who doesn't understand *anything*.)

I think, rather obviously, of being in love.

And I think of singing with the choral society in my village in Alsace.

We practise every Thursday (at least we do again now since Covid became less threatening).

And each time you lose yourself completely in the music for an hour and a half and forget any worries or concerns.

Then comes the great day of the concert:

- The excitement of being carried by the organ or the orchestra;
- The tension as you wait for your entry and the concentration as you join with your fellow choristers in producing something beautiful:
- The sheer joy of losing yourself in something which goes far beyond your own (imperfect) input;
- The beauty of sublime music which somehow puts you in touch with a world beyond;

- A true experience of joy which brings joy to others.
This is one way of “being joyful in the Lord, serving the Lord with gladness, and coming before his presence with a song”.

No wonder music is so central to practically all Christian traditions.
No wonder it is often the singing that moves us most during an act of worship.
No wonder heaven is filled with choirs of angels.

John Murray

