FBC Service Sunday November 15, 2026, Psalm 148

Let Heaven and Earth Praise the Lord!

Autumn in the Psalms One Last Look Up — Final Message

Over these past several months, we've been travelling together through the Psalms.

We've walked through some of life's valleys. We've learned what it means to trust God when the road ahead is not clear.

We've considered His goodness, His faithfulness, His mercy, and His wonderful works.

And now, as we come to the conclusion of our Autumn in the Psalms series, I want us to do something very simple.

I want us to look up!

For a little while this morning, let's lift our eyes above any concerns that occupy our minds, above any headlines that trouble us, and above the burdens we sometimes carry.

Let's look toward heaven and consider the greatness of our God.

Perhaps you came to church today with a grateful heart. Perhaps the week has been busy, or your thoughts have been on someone you love.

Wherever we find ourselves, Psalm 148 extends the same magnificent invitation to God's people: *"To Praise the LORD!"*

What makes this Psalm so remarkable is the size and make up of its choir.

It begins in the highest heavens, comes down through the skies, sweeps across the earth and the sea, and finally calls people of every age and station to join in.

Nothing is too great to praise Him. No one is too small to be included.

There's no complaint in this Psalm, no plea for rescue, no list of troubles.

There's simply the joyful recognition that the Lord is worthy of praise.

And I can't think of a better place to finish our journey together.

1. Heaven Has a Song of Praise — Verses 1–6

The Psalm begins: "*Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens! Praise him from the skies!*" (verse 1).

Then the Psalmist calls upon the angels, the heavenly armies, the sun and moon, and all the shining stars.

Have you ever stopped to think about those words: *"Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all the armies of heaven!"*

What a choir that must be!

We have heard soul stirring choirs here on earth. Sometimes a great gathering of voices can almost lift us out of our seats. **But what must the praise of heaven be like?**

What have those heavenly hosts witnessed?

Job 38:7 speaks of the morning stars singing together and the sons of God shouting for joy as God laid the earth's foundations.

Picture the wonder of creation unfolding at the command of Almighty God.

The heavens stretching out, the stars appearing, the earth taking shape, and heaven rejoicing in the greatness of its Maker!

Then think of that extraordinary night outside Bethlehem. Shepherds were watching their flocks when an angel announced the birth of our Saviour. **Luke 2.14**

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared, praising God

"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased"

What a moment! Heaven rejoiced as the Son of God entered our world.

And consider the wonder of redemption. Peter tells us that even angels long to look into the things of God's saving grace (1 Peter 1:12). Jesus tells us there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents.

Heaven rejoices when a lost soul comes home. **That means the story of God's mercy is no small matter in heaven.**

Now let your thoughts travel forward. In Revelation 5, John sees countless angels around God's throne, declaring "**worthy is the Lamb who was slain."**

We're not told what every note sounds like, and we need not pretend to know.

But imagine the majesty of that worship: multitudes of voices, united not in praising themselves, but in honouring Jesus.

And here's the thought that moves me most: through saving faith in Jesus, **one day we shall be there too among the redeemed**, worshipping the Lord who loved us and gave Himself for us.

We shall no longer have to imagine His glory. We shall see Him face to face. **Faith – Sight**.

Perhaps we'll remember hymns we once sung here with trembling voices or through tears.

Whatever heaven's music sounds like, its praise will never grow old, because the glory of the One we praise will never diminish.

Isn't that reason enough to lift our eyes today? The God who commands the stars is not too occupied to hear the prayer whispered in your kitchen.

The Lord whom heaven praises knows your name and cares for you. Our song here on earth is only the beginning of a praise that will never end.

And notice that the Psalmist doesn't stop with the angels. He calls upon the sun and moon, the shining stars, and the highest heavens.

Verse 5 gives the reason: *"For at his command they were created"*

Creation itself bears witness to the greatness of its Creator.

2. Earth Has a Song of Praise — Verses 7–12

Now the Psalmist brings the song down to earth: *"Praise the LORD from the earth"*

He speaks of sea creatures and ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds, mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars, wild animals and livestock, small creatures and flying birds.

What an incredible picture! It's as though the Psalmist looks in every direction and says, "**You too**! Join the song!"

The mountains have their place. **The forests have their place**. Even the creatures that most of us hardly notice have their place in God's world.

We are going through another autumn season where the leaves turned their beautiful colours, the fields have changed after harvest, and the air has taken on that familiar freshness.

The changing seasons remind us that creation is never standing still. And yet through every change, the Lord remains the same.

We don't have to travel to some distant mountain to see His handiwork.

We can see it in a tree outside the window, in the flight of a bird, in a sunrise on an ordinary morning, or in the quiet beauty of a field after rain.

Of course, trees and hills don't sing hymns the way we do. Their praise is the testimony of what God has made. Their very existence displays His wisdom and power.

But you and I have a privilege that the trees do not have: we can know the One whom we praise.

We can thank Him with understanding, love Him with our hearts, and speak of His goodness to one another.

Then notice how the Psalmist turns from the natural world to the human family: kings and rulers, young men and young women, old men and children.

There is room for everyone in this choir. **Quote verse here**.

I love that the Psalmist does not say praise belongs only to the young and energetic, or only to those with beautiful voices, or only to those whose lives have gone smoothly.

Young and old are called together. The child learning the words of a hymn and the older saint who has sung it for decades both have a place.

Perhaps this is a word of encouragement for some of us today.

We may not have the strength we once had. We may not be able to do everything we used to do. **But the privilege of praising the Lord has not been taken away from us.**

Indeed, some of the richest praise comes from those who have walked with the Lord for many years. They've seen seasons of sunshine and seasons of rain. And when they say, "The Lord has been faithful," **those words carry the weight and experience of a lifetime**.

Wouldn't it be a beautiful thing if our church were always such a choir, not merely when we sing on Sunday, but when we encourage someone, give thanks around the table, speak kindly of God's goodness, and help a younger generation discover His faithfulness?

Heaven has a song of praise. Earth has a song of praise.

And you and I have been invited to add our voices.

3. We Have the Greatest Reason to Praise — Verses 13–14

Now we come to the heart of it all.

Verse 13 says, "*Let them all praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above the earth and heaven*!"

The Lord is worthy of praise because of who He is, not simply because of what He gives us.

But the Psalm does not leave us gazing at a God who is great and far away.

Verse 14 turns our attention to His special care for His people.

The Lord who is exalted above heaven and earth has drawn His people near to Himself.

What a remarkable combination: unmatched greatness and tender nearness.

For the people of Israel, these words spoke of the Lord's faithfulness to the people He had chosen.

As Christians, we read them in the light of the fuller revelation of God's love in Jesus Christ. We know that the Creator has not remained distant from His creation.

The One through whom all things were made came into this world.

Jesus walked our roads, welcomed children, touched the hurting, forgave sinners, and showed us the Father's heart.

: And at the cross He gave Himself for us. Through His resurrection He opened the way to a living hope.

That's why our praise is so much more than admiration for a beautiful world.

We praise Him because He loved us with an everlasting love.

We praise Him because His mercy is greater than our failures.

We praise Him because in Christ we are welcomed, forgiven, and given the promise of life everlasting.

Perhaps someone says, "I can praise God when everything is going well. But what about the ordinary days, when there is no special excitement?"

The wonderful thing is that our reasons for praise do not disappear when the excitement fades.

God's character doesn't change with the weather.

His promises don't expire when the seasons turn.

That's not to suggest that we must always feel cheerful. Praise is not pretending that every day is easy.

It's remembering, on every kind of day, that the Lord is good.

Sometimes praise is a joyful song sung at full voice. Sometimes it's a quiet "Thank You, Lord" spoken from the heart.

Think back over this autumn series.

We have seen the blessed life rooted in God's Word.

We have considered the believer who is still flourishing and bearing fruit.

We have heard the redeemed tell of the Lord's wonderful works.

And today we see where all those experiences lead: **to praise.**

It's as though each Psalm has given us another reason to lift our eyes.

The Lord guides us. The Lord sustains us. The Lord hears us. The Lord delivers us. The Lord remains faithful.

So together with the Psalmist, we say: *"Praise the LORD!"*

And here's something especially precious: you don't have to borrow somebody else's story of God's goodness.

You have your own. Perhaps it's an answered prayer. Perhaps its strength given for a difficult day.

Perhaps it's the love of family, the fellowship of the church, or the quiet assurance that Christ has never let you go.

Take a moment and remember.

Not everything you have received can be wrapped in paper or measured in dollars.

Some of God's greatest gifts are His peace, His presence, His forgiveness, and the hope that belongs to us in Jesus Christ. **We have every reason to praise Him**.

Conclusion — Whatever the Season, Praise the Lord

And so our journey through Autumn in the Psalms comes to an end. The leaves will fall. The landscape will change. Before long, another season will be upon us.

But the God we have been learning to trust and praise will not change.

The Psalm began in heaven and travelled across the whole earth.

It called the angels and stars, the mountains and trees, the young and the old.

And now its invitation comes to us, here in this place, this Sunday morning.

We don't need to wait until life is perfect before we praise the Lord.

We can praise Him for the beauty around us, **for the grace that sustains us**, for the Saviour who loves us, and for the hope that lies before us.

That's the thought I would most like us to carry home today:

Whatever season of life you are in, you still have a reason to praise the Lord.

If you are enjoying a bright and happy season, praise Him.

If you are finding your way through a quieter season, praise Him.

If you are looking back over many years and remembering His faithfulness, praise Him.

And if you're just beginning to discover His goodness, there's a place for your voice in the song too.

One day our autumn series will be a memory. But the song of praise will go on.

We began this morning with the heavenly hosts praising the Lord. And one glorious day, by His grace, those who belong to Jesus Christ will join the redeemed around His throne.

Until then, we have a song to sing here on earth, a song of gratitude for His goodness, of thanksgiving for His faithfulness, and of joy for His great salvation.

So let's leave with our eyes lifted and our hearts encouraged.

The autumn leaves may fall, the seasons may change, and the years may pass, but the praises of our God will never cease.

Heaven has a song.

Earth has a song.

And by God's grace, we have a song too.

"Praise the LORD!"