

# **“I Got The Music In Me”**

**Presented by Rev. Kristen Lowe on 06-03  
At Crossroads United Methodist Church,  
Waunakee, WI**

Scripture:

Colossians 3:15-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Corinthians 14:26

What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

Organist Jim Serian tells of the time when the women's league - which was mostly made up of the church matrons, wanted to announce a new project. On that particular Sunday morning, during the announcement time, the president of the women's league came up to the lectern. After a brief description, she called for all of the ladies of the church to "march up to the front of the sanctuary" so that the congregation could see the passion of the group. Serian had decided to give the ladies a marching tune to encourage them as they came up the aisle. He started playing the children's chorus, "The Lord's Army", to keep in step with the march. He says: "in my head, I was hearing the familiar words, 'I may never march in the infantry, ride in the cavalry, shoot the artillery...' Unfortunately, everyone else was hearing the words of the original tune, 'the old gray mare, she ain't what she used to be, ain't what she used to be, ain't what she used to be...'" He said "when the surprised women's league president asked why I was playing that tune, I got so flustered; I couldn't answer, so I just left through the side door."

The songs that linger in our minds or hearts may be there for the sheer harmony of the music, or because of the words, or both.

"There are places I'll remember all my life though some have changed some forever not for better. Some have gone and some remain all these places had their moments with lovers and friends I still can recall some are dead and some are living in my life I've loved them all"

When we speak the lyrics of songs, it helps us to recognize what is really being conveyed. Music has extraordinary power because it is the melody, which moves our souls and in many cases, words, which land on our ears and sink into our being. Ephesians 4:29 says, do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Proverbs 18: 20 from the fruit of their mouth a person's stomach is filled; with the harvest of their lips they are satisfied the tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Socrates once said, "when the soul hears music, it drops its' best guard." that, for me, is one of the best descriptions of the power that music has. With music it is possible to open a door in the heart of the listener. Once inside, the musician can either beautify the interior of that soul, or desecrate that most holy of places. This is why I think we really have to consider what we listen to.

Most have seen in their own lives that music can profoundly affect emotions—either positively or negatively. This even applies to god himself! In first chronicles it tells us that all the men of Israel assembled with King Solomon... and music was played to honor god to celebrate the Ark of the Covenant's arrival at the completed temple. The immediate effect? God's response was so profound that the temple was "filled with a cloud," which represented his approval.

Think about this for a moment. Even the all-powerful creator god responded to music when it was used to glorify him. This was not just any kind of music—it truly was "special music." I believe that's the case for our hymns when we sing together with love and unity with sincere praise and thankfulness. When we let the music and words sink deep, and we feel them with all our heart... we praise to the god of the universe.

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Music can actually be a nexus where the spiritual and physical worlds interact. We know from genesis 1 that god made humankind *in his very image and likeness*. Being made in the image of god (the elohim) we were given the same capacity to create and enjoy music that god (the elohim) possess. The bible makes it clear that god enjoys great music in the heavenly realm. Revelation 5:8-11<sup>1</sup> records that the 24 elders at the throne of god worship god with music on harps and john foresaw a “new song” being sung by the angels and/or the resurrected saints in the future.

Music is powerful. As we go into the week ahead, I invite you to pay particular attention to the music you hear. How does it make you feel? What is the musician saying?