

"Celebrate."  
Psalm 24.  
Ephesians 1: 3-14.

A young King David led a parade through Jerusalem. He did so by dancing in front of a procession that was carrying the Ark of the Covenant into a tent. It had been brought from its' Mount Gerizim shrine home. The Ark-the golden case containing the Ten Commandments and the Holiest object on earth-would remain in the sacred tent with priestly care until the Temple's construction years later.

David's reasons

for bringing the Ark into Jerusalem are nuclear. Yet he was likely giving the Lord thanks for using him to lead Israel, his people, in victory against the Philistines.

David was also likely Praising God for the Lord had chosen him King through, Samuel, the Temple Prophet, who had annointed David's head with oil.

Nonetheless, David shamelessly danced down Jerusalem's streets as the Ark parade's leader. He

was the Dancing King! Perhaps ABBA would have sang first about David had they all lived in the same generation.

George Frederick Handel, the German Baroque composer in London, encouraged King George

I to have a river float parade down the River Thames.

It was to celebrate George's coronation as England's new King. The composer, known for his great choral work, "Messiah," would compose and perform "Water Music" another of his great pieces, to honour George I.

The King reluctantly agreed. George's reluctance represented a grudge against Handel. George had been Prince of Hanover, a German state-also Handel's birth place. The then Prince George became infuriated, however, when Handel, who had been his prized chapel master, quickly left George's court for a better position in Queen Anne's London court. Yet both men were again ruler and subject-this time in a foreign land.

And it would prove a Blessed reunion.

The day of the River Thames parade, George I immediately arose from his float throne and embraced Handel. It was after the composer had finished conducting his piece to honour England's new King. It was the only time a

British monarch showed a subject physical affection. George I was so overjoyed that Handel had composed and conducted such beautiful music to honour him and that both men had been reunited. He then asked Handel's forgiveness for his grudge which the composer granted. The king then invited everyone on both the floats as well as watching from the river bank to find a partner and dance with the Royal crew back down to London.

George I then gave Thanks to God and Christ for both obtaining the English people's faith and support. He even more expressed gratitude for being reunited with Handel who honoured and forgave his sire, still. George I also declared that July day to be a yearly river parade day, henceforward. It would be a yearly holiday for all people to celebrate with King and countrymen the ways God had blessed them that year. Handel would also be responsible for writing and conducting a new praise composition, yearly. The river parade continued for another century. Both God and Savior were praised on the Thames for the ways They had Blessed Crown and Country.

Thankfully, We continue with reasons to celebrate! As Paul reminds us in today's Ephesians lesson, God Predestined our Lives to receive Redemption from Sin. God gave Jesus, His Only Son, to pay all our sin debts by dying on the Cross thus redeeming us. Truly, Heavenly Father did not have sacrifice His Son. Psalms, in fact, teaches that all we have to do is Repent and God will forgive. Yet God Loved us so much that He wanted us debt free from Sin's Condemnation so that He along with Jesus could quickly and eagerly Welcome us for Eternal Life in Their Heavenly Kingdom.

Therefore, we need to Celebrate! What is more is that Christ also came to teach us ways to better prepare our "Clean Hands and Pure Heart" which the Psalmist David said God will help us purify: By Loving, Serving, Forgiving, and Supporting Everyone and Their Life Value. The Lord has annointed all of us with Callings for the purpose of others to Experience His Glory Through us. We are therefore here to be a Light to each other as God and Savior are to us. We are not perfect nor will we ever or even need to be. Yet if Our Hearts and Hands become cleaner and purer, the more Christ Hearted in Love We will become one to another which will make us Holier in God's Love. This is all God and Jesus require for us to be with them. Again, Let us celebrate!

How should we celebrate? A Daily Heart Parade! Each day, we should assemble a line of Godly heartfelt words, deeds, and reasons in our hearts. And we should act upon them to Praise God and Savior for all they are doing for us. This should be done especially if we know They are lifting us up from struggles. These challenges may still be present. But they may lesser whilst we are stronger for we know we can do everything in Christ. Therefore, let us Celebrate-making sure others see God's Work in our lives so that they may experience the same blessings and also Celebrate!

Amen.