

# How shall we sing the LORD's song?

*Four ways in which the Psalms can enrich worship*

**THE EXILES** sat in the shade of the willows down by the river and, as usual, their thoughts returned to their homeland and the dwelling place of God. And, as usual, along came the locals to taunt and annoy them: "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" And when the tormentors left, conversation turned, as usual, to the vexing question, "How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?"

How are followers of Jesus to sing the songs that belong to

the LORD – the Psalms – while we live in the present age? Let me suggest several answers.

## **Emotionally**

We can sing them emotionally. The Psalms cover the full gamut of emotions, from the dark notes of anxiety, sorrow and despair, through the sweet tones of yearning and hope, to the vibrant chords of wonder, joy and exultation. There are Psalms for weddings, Psalms for funerals, Psalms for thanksgiving, Psalms for contrition.



## **Prophetically**

The Psalms are also to be sung prophetically. They foretell the incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah; they foretell his ascension to heavenly glory; they foretell the proclamation of the gospel to the nations; they foretell Christ's coming again to judge the world.

But the Psalms also "forth tell". They speak to prime ministers and presidents, calling them to submit to the universal authority of King Jesus. They declare glad tidings to the nations. They call the holy angels to worship God. They pronounce doom on fallen angels and unrepentant sinners.

## **Faithfully**

The Psalms are to be sung in an attitude of faith. They speak of the great themes: creation, providence, redemption and

the new creation. They are breathed out by God – quite literally they are "the LORD's song" – and what they teach is to be received by all the faithful.

## **Expectantly**

The Psalms inspire hope. Not all of the prophecies in the Psalms have been fulfilled. Psalm 98, for example, closes with a wonderful promise: "Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity." It has yet to happen! So the Psalms are to be sung expectantly.

## **And yet...**

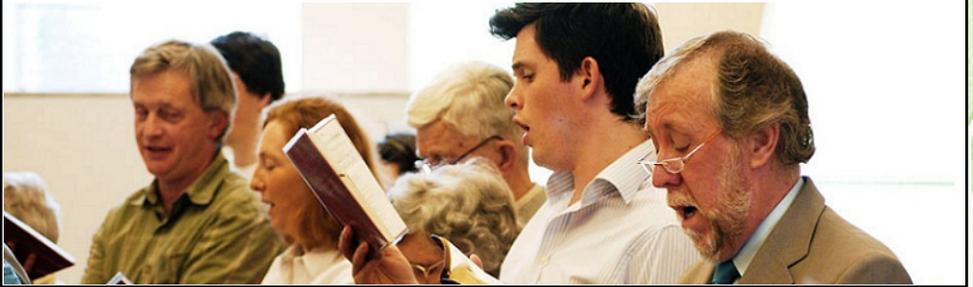
And yet few churches now sing the Psalms when they gather to "remember Zion". Have we forgotten how to sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?



Bailiesmills Reformed Presbyterian Church gathers at 7 PM on the first Lord's Day of each month to "sing the LORD's song".

Each meeting includes an explanation of a Psalm.

Come and learn more about the meaning of the Psalms and experience their use in worship.



## ***What's on at Bailiesmills?***

### **Sunday morning**

Sunday School      10.30 AM

Adult Bible Class    10.45 AM

Worship              11.30 AM

### **Sunday evening**

7.00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Lord's Day of each month.

**Other activities:** [bailiesmills.rpc.org/what-we-do](http://bailiesmills.rpc.org/what-we-do)

Miner

# PROPHETS

with a MAJOR

# Message

A series of evening guest services, at 7 PM on the 3rd Sunday of each month, beginning on 16th March

are you ready for  
**Summer**  
**Bible Club**



**23-27**  
**JUNE 2014**



*finder*

...is a publication of

**Bailiesmills** Reformed Presbyterian Church. It aims to provide a **Reformed Outlook** on life.

The Reformed outlook endeavours to apply the Bible to every area of life. Its goal is to put into practice the Christian's confession that "Jesus Christ is Lord."

**Bailiesmills** is a Bible-based, confessional and evangelical congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

○ Lisburn

A49

Drennan Rd

The church building is at 15 Drennan Road, Lisburn, BT27 6UT.

Drennan Road is on the A49, 4.0 miles from Lisburn, and 4.7 miles from Ballynahinch.

○ B'hinch

For more information contact our minister, John Watterson, on (028) 9263 9684, or check out the congregational website, [bailiesmills.rpc.org](http://bailiesmills.rpc.org).

