

We might say a similar dynamic applies in the Psalms. The various psalmists speak with honesty, often brutal and painful, about their feelings toward friends, enemies, and even God himself. But this is never for the purpose of self-validation or, worse still, wallowing in self-indulgent self-pity. Rather, it's for the purpose of setting the recounted experiences and feelings within the context of God's great truths.

For the church to grasp this truth and shape our psychological intuitions in the biblical way, she needs to think long and hard about one of the central and formative acts of worship: singing. It's no coincidence that the Psalter is a book of corporate praise. Singing such poetry as a community shaped the social imaginary of the Jews. And the church needs to do the same today.

Yes, we've been complicit in expressive individualism; no, we don't want to go down the road that leads to Oprah Winfrey and make sentiments the foundation for how we live our lives. But that doesn't mean we should eliminate sentiment and emotion from our church lives. Far from it. We need to reform our corporate church lives in a way that forms our inner lives appropriately. And that means choosing worship songs that don't indulge in emotion for the sake of emotion or press upon me that my needs and my desires are the reason God exists. We need songs that allow us to understand and express our feelings honestly but in a way that always leads outward to God and to his truth. And while I don't think, as some do, that the church should sing only psalms, I'm inclined to say that singing more psalms—or any psalms if you don't sing them already—would be an excellent place to start.

Think about it: the psalms present a view of the Christian life that's marked by joy but that also knows sorrow and loss. They set the struggles of the present in the context of God's great actions in times past and his promises for the future. They help us to understand our status as strangers in a strange land. By setting forth a grand picture of God and the promise of future rest, they help us to keep perspective—theological and emotional—on the events of the present, whether personal, such as illness, or social, such as the disturbing transformations of society. We are creatures of emotions and sentiments, and we are fallen. Therefore, we need songs of redemption to help restore our emotions to their proper context.

### Collect

Lord God, you know that we cannot put our trust in anything that we do: help us to have faith in you alone, and mercifully defend us by your power against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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*Have regard for your covenant Lord; let the poor and needy praise your Name. Arise O God, plead your cause; remember how the ungodly scoff at you all the day.*  
[Psalm 74.20-22].

### 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 – Ordinary 19

<u>Today</u>		<u>7<sup>th</sup> August</u>
Genesis 15:6-20	(p 21)	
Psalms 119:1-16	(p 957)	
<b>Gal. 3:15-25</b>	(p 1812)	<b>Gal. 3:26-4:7</b>
John 14:15-21	(p 1676)	

### **Biblical Worship in a Strange New World**

Carl Trueman – TGC, July 2022

Expressive individualism as we find it in contemporary society is problematic for how it places individuals and their own desires—we might even say their own egos—at the centre of the moral universe. Yet we must be careful not to miss the important truths it contains, such as its underlying commitment to the notion of universal human dignity regardless of where we're placed in the earthly hierarchy.

Furthermore, its emphasis upon our inner psychological space and upon our emotions and desires is not in itself wrong. It's wrong only when it makes such things effectively ends in themselves. God has created us as beings with emotions and desires. We are intentional creatures, not simply animals of instinct, and our inner thought processes are vital to who we are. And that means we need to acknowledge that inner psychological space and shape its intuitions in the right way.

St Augustine, early in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century wrote an autobiography entitled *Confessions*. It is one of the classics of Christian literature. The book is preoccupied with Augustine's inner life, and he recalls key incidents from his earlier life. What's interesting, however, is that Augustine's inward move of reflection doesn't terminate there but always ends up moving outward toward God. Ultimately, his feelings are set in the context of, and corrected by, the larger truth that is God and his revelation in Christ.

## A guide for our prayers during the week

### Monday

Our diocese and the gospel

- Bishop and Dean
- Other parishes
- Another Year of evangelism

### Tuesday

Our church and the gospel

- Children and youth
- Families
- Seniors

### Wednesday

Our community and the gospel

- Covid19
- SRE
- Youth Group

### Thursday

Our nation and the gospel

- Prime minister
- State and local government
- Religious Freedom legislation

### Friday

God's world and the gospel

- Islamisation
- War and poverty
- Barnabas Aid & Open Doors
- Compassion - Lillian

### Saturday

Ministry and the gospel

- Link missionaries – James & Steph
- Link parish – St Anne's Ryde
- Wardens and Parish Council
- Vicar

### Dates to Remember

7 August  
21 August  
3 September  
23-25 September  
8-9 October

Ministry reports due today  
AGM  
New Life Conference  
Synod  
Bible Society in Barraba

### Greet

### Lead

### Read

### Prayers

### Counting

### Sunday Club

### Morning Tea

### Church Cleaning

### Mowing

### Today

Trevor  
Dean  
Dean, Alison, Lee  
Hamilton  
Steve & Elaine  
Penny & Will  
Alison & Debbie

### 14 August

Julia  
Penny  
Penny, Will, Greg  
Penny  
Dean & Hamilton  
  
Charm & Sue  
Elaine  
Peter W & Steve



New Life is a Bible teaching conference organised by the Anglican Diocese of Armidale for all women of the New England & North West. New Life aims to provide quality Bible teaching to encourage women in their relationship with Jesus and equip them to serve Him in their local communities. There will be talks, interviews, book reviews, excellent music and warm fellowship over the day.

For more information visit [www.newlifeconference.org.au](http://www.newlifeconference.org.au), or contact the committee on 0413 491 588.

### Direct Debit Giving Information

**Account name:** Barraba Anglican Church

**BSB:** 932-000

**Account No.:** 11685 (add S3 if transferring from RAB. Omit if not)