Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say it, Rejoice!

My dear friends,

Fingers snap, toes tap, heads bob, maybe the body starts to sway, even bounce, to dance just a bit. Soon you’re humming along. For the rest of the day that song, that melody, that chorus will be playing through your mind. We don’t always know why; we can’t explain why some songs just stick with us. They affect us. Why do we want to listen to, sing along with some songs again and again?

Do you ever wonder what kind of music God likes listening to? What gets his anthropomorphic toe tapping? His finger snapping? And stirs his heart? What’s streaming on his playlist? Is that our goal this morning, the goal of our hymns, our worship, that we give to God something he wants to hear?

But when Paul mentions worship that is holy and pleasing, he isn’t talking about our songs. He isn’t talking about music, he isn’t even talking about what we call church. No, worship holy and pleasing to God is your life, the life of faith, the life fed redeemed in Christ. The life fed in the word. The life that takes every thought and motive captive to Christ. This is worship holy and pleasing with God, a change within and action without.

So, without trying to theorize about God’s favorite style of music, perhaps it is safe to just say, God is pleased when our songs, not only flow from faith, not only use the best of our talents to declare what he has done, but also feed our faith. God is pleased when our toes aren’t tapping are hearts aren’t beating along with the rhythm of the world, and no I’m not just talking music now, but rather it is God’s love running through our mind, it is his forgiveness that beats in our heart, it is his will that snaps our fingers. Luther felt music was one of the greatest gifts and endowments of God, a gift to drive away the devil, to stir our hearts, to encourage us in our lives, we have hymns, at least lyrics in Scripture, the Psalms and in many other places. God has inspired them for us. It’s hard to say what it is about a song that makes it a favorite, but I know what makes a hymn, it proclaims, it reminds, in fixes, it stirs in our hearts the mercies of God, so that our worship isn’t just a song, but it is worship holy and pleasing to God: Romans 12: