

**Study Questions for the July 31, 2022 Sermon:
“The Sound and Silence of Heaven
Revelation 7:9-8:5**

Call to Worship: Psalm 3

1. David wrote Psalm 3 to express his great distress: He was being pursued by his beloved son, Absalom, who wanted to kill him, and that someone was. The story, recorded in 2 Samuel 15, makes clear that even after this incident, David continued to love Absalom and was heartbroken by his rebellion and by his death.
 - a. Relate another story in the bible in which a character had to deal with treachery within his/her family.
 - b. Share a story in which you had to deal with family treachery, in which you were able to bring Christian principles to bear – perhaps through forgiveness or reconciliation.
 - c. Why was this passage selected for the Call to Worship? How does it relate to the scriptures upon which the sermon was based?

Sermon Discussion:

2. Make a case for why you believe the 144,000 referenced in Revelation 7:4-8 is figurative or literal.

3. Verse 7 refers to palm branches.
 - a. What is the symbolism of palm branches?
 - b. Where else in scripture do we see people with palm branches?
4. What is the symbolism of the white robes in verse 9?
5. Review Genesis 22:17 and compare it to Matthew 16:18.
 - a. Who are the offspring of Abraham?
 - b. What are the gates that Abraham's enemy might possess?
6. Where else in Revelation, besides 7:17, does God promise to wipe away every tear?
 - a. What do you understand this promise to mean?
 - b. Has this already occurred in your life?
7. Pastor Paul said that no one who receives judgment wanted something else.
 - a. Do you agree?
 - b. Are there any examples of this in scripture?