

## Order of Worship

Announcements

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Scripture

Lord's Supper

Contribution

Sermon

Closing Prayer



### Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9 a.m.

Worship 10 a.m.

### Sunday Evening

Worship 5:30 p.m.

### Wednesday Evening

Bible Classes 7 p.m.



# New York Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 29, 2026

## Delving Into the Psalms



You will seek me and find me when  
you seek me with all your heart.

- **Jeremiah 29:13**

A part of the Bible that is often neglected in study is the Psalms. Now notice I said "study" them, not read them. If you're a regular Bible reader or follow a standard daily devotional plan, then I'm sure you've read the Psalms. What I'm mean is digging into them for their background, structure and teachings.

As a general rule, it's true that you don't start with the Psalms to build doctrines. Because they are poetry and lyrical they use poetic and metaphorical language. Metaphors don't lend themselves well to clear doctrines. However, once we have clear doctrines, the Psalms can be used as "supporting" documents. Also, for the most part they are written as prayers and songs meant to express the emotions the author felt and what he needs or wants from God. They are filled with praise for God's character, as the author knows God will act or thanking God for having acted.

Additionally, the Psalms are a collection of five "books", each closing with a doxology, (The last Psalm, 150, not only closes the fifth "book", it also is a doxology within itself.) This collection of books is taken from different writers. David is the most well-known. But there are psalms attributed to Asaph, the sons of Korah, Jeduthun, Solomon, Ethan the Ezrahite, Heman the Ezrahite, and one psalm (90) from Moses.

One more thing about the Psalms is that they give a variety. There are hymns, laments, psalms of thanksgiving, royal psalms, and psalms of confidence and wisdom. The authors poured out their hearts to God in many different ways. So, when you study the Psalms, don't be surprised by the depth of emotions and the revealing insights that you'll find there.

The book of Psalms has always had an important place in the spiritual life of both Jews and Christians. The fourth-century Christian leader, Athanasius, summed up one important reason for this when he said that while most of Scripture speaks *to* us, the Psalms speak *for* us. You will find that the authors have been emotionally in all the places we have – despairing, doubt, fear, worry, anger and then joy, relief, wonder and awe. They tell us of the sting of injustice, false accusations, persecution and confusion about why it seems God isn't listening to their pleas. Yet, like Job, they complain in faith – in their various situations they never stop believing or trusting God.

Let me advise you that to really appreciate the Psalms, read each slowly. Notice the words or ideas that are repeated. Look at the descriptions and notice the parts. Discern the divisions in the Psalms: where the complaints or pleas are, or how the author describes his situation; where the author expresses what he wants or needs from God; where the author expresses his assurance that God will act; and where praise and worship occur. Like I said, you will find a variety. The Psalms don't follow a formula or a particular format. But if you read and listen, you will often find the psalmist speaking your heart and then encouraging your faith. And I think you will learn why the Psalms have been enjoyed for generations by both Jews and Christians. ~ Terry