

# Alleluia No. 1



Sometimes “alleluia” can be a burden. Here, in hymnological terms, “Alleluia” is, in fact, a burden because it is a chorus that comes before the stanzas. When is alleluia a burden? When we don’t feel like singing, even in worship.

I no longer worry about people who do not sing in worship. For some of us on some Sundays, it is all we can do to get to the church. But there is something beautiful about a person being in the right place at the right time, even though they know they are not going to participate as fully as they have in the past. That’s when ritual and routine become good things in our Christ-following. We show up at the right place until the time comes again when we can not only show up, but participate fully. I think God understands the person who sits instead of stands and listens instead of sings. Showing up may be Alleluia number one.

Why, on those Sundays when getting there is about all we can offer God, to we bother to get there at all? We remember that it’s the right place. We remember that “Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation,” even if someone else has to sing it for us. We remember that if there is any good news, we might just share some of it or discover some of it by getting there and being there.

When “alleluia” is a burden, carry it to worship, and let your brothers and sisters in Christ take care of the stanzas, until that Sunday, when Alleluia number one is all they can do, and you sing the rest. It’s called family. It’s called community. It’s called church. It’s called worshiping in Spirit and in truth.

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