

Dear Friends:

I went to a classical music concert once at a local university in South Dakota and the conductor before it began told us that when the great composers started their writing and the orchestra played, it was more like a regular concert where people didn't just sit there, but they cheered and jeered, and weren't so polite and dignified. He encouraged us to loosen up a little. Of course, the audience really didn't because that was not the way we were brought up.

Even as a teenager, I didn't like worship for the most part. I liked the hymns (traditional for us), and sometimes tried to listen to the sermon, but mostly it was trying not to fidget because that was disrespectful. Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and body(strength). In order to love God with all our body, our whole body, we have to engage all five of our senses. The Orthodox worship services are commonly referred to the 'smells and bells' church, with the Roman Catholics not far behind, with their own explosions of sound, smells, icons, carved pictographs, and crosses everywhere. I am not suggesting we go that far, but worshipping outside these past couple summers has offered us some of the sound and smells. We have communion once a month which gives us the taste of our faith. And last week we light candles and put some salt on our tongue to remember Jesus calls us to be light and salt to the world.

Next Sunday, I am hoping that we will have an explosion of sight to put on your best dress or tux, or a costume, or your comfortable pajamas, or uniform or diving suit or whatever lets your God Light Shine. I hope we will be filled with joy and music and afterwards good food and fellowship. Let us continue to 'be' the church and a part of God's kingdom which is amazing, marvelous, and eternally creative.

Peace  
Pastor Enno