

Pastor D's Letter April 24, 2022

My grandmother always told me that spelling matters. I've come to agree with her. One letter can change the meaning of a word.

As I was looking over the Power Point for Sunday's service, I caught a typo. The song is sung to God, and focuses on God's action in our lives. That is what makes it a worship song. It helps us reflect on what God does for us and how God's action impacts our life. One of the phrases that is repeated a couple of times is the following:

Open up the doors and let the music play
Let the streets resound with singing
Songs that bring Your hope
Songs that bring Your joy
Dancers who dance upon injustice

When we sing this song, I often bring it to our attention that the word is your, not you because we want to sing:

Open up the doors and let the music play
Let the streets resound with singing
Songs that bring You hope
Songs that bring You joy
Dancers who dance upon injustice

Did you catch the difference? It's just one small letter. Yes, music and singing bring us hope and joy, but that is not the point of the song. What is being sung about is how in worship, music and singing bring God's hope and God's joy into our lives. We shouldn't make worship about us. Worship is about God.

One small letter makes a big difference!

Nowhere is that more true than in what we profess to believe. In the Nicene Creed, we confess that Jesus is: "true God from true God, begotten not made, of **one substance** with the Father". The Creed was written specifically to proclaim the divinity of Jesus.

The Nicene Creed reminds us that Jesus is God. The English word "SUBSTANCE" is the Greek word **homoousios**, which means "the same substance". Those who did not believe that Jesus was God argued that the word should be **homoiousios** which means "of similar substance". What the Nicene Creed affirms is that there is ONE GOD in Three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and that they are one because they share the same substance. Notice that the words homoousios and homoiousios differ only by one 'i' (or the Greek letter iota).

One letter makes a difference.

Jesus is God!

We sing and worship not just to give ourselves hope or joy, but to remember that our hope and our joy come from God who gave himself to take our place on the cross. I hope you will join us this Sunday as we sing songs that bring God's hope and God's joy into our lives.

See you in worship,
Dr. D

NEWS UPDATES

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- Join us for **Fellowship after Church**.
- **JOIN US FOR WVN Bible Study this Wednesday @6p.m. Luke 7.**
- **MASKS ARE OPTIONAL** IN WORSHIP! Be considerate of those who choose to wear masks and maintain social distance.
- If you cannot come in person, we continue to broadcast our **SERVICE LIVE** every Sunday at 9 a.m. on <https://www.facebook.com/SierraVistaPresbyterianChurch/>. Our account is public. **YOU DO NOT NEED A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO WATCH.** If you come to worship in person or watch at home, **invite a friend to join you.** **Worship sheets** are available on our website at <https://www.sierravistayuma.com/> under the NEWS Tab.
- If you wish to receive the monthly **newsletter** or know someone who wants to receive **Pastor D's Letter**, contact the church office with your email information.
- **THANK YOU for your CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT** of the church by giving in person, mailing a check, or giving ONLINE.
- **Pancake Breakfast on May 1st**, proceeds collected by Scouts will go toward purchasing Bibles for Crossroads Mission.