

Cover photo: Lisa Kleucker

Cover design: Malinda Kleucker

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Forward to *Hymns of Joy and Spirit*

Every generation desires to express its faith in words of its own. A hymnal is a testament of faith which reflects, like a mirror, the reality of its time. In the second decade of the new millennium, we have come to understand that there are no easy solutions to the world's challenges. As in past eras, we face the woes of war and famine and look to a path that will lead us away from skepticism and despair. A decade after the destruction of the World Trade Center and bombing of the Pentagon, our society finds itself deeply divided between the paths of peace and war. But there is a chance that we can embrace the idea that we are not so different from each other after all, and music can help us do that. As Hymn # 17 attests, "...At last we have found our common ground, and work to do we can share. Our hurting world has need for us, to try to heal and to care." We have learned that the foundations of our faith are little different from the foundations of other great religious traditions. As in Hymn #21, "Compassion and love (is) our covenant, meaning and truth, our holy grail."

This hymnal is divided into four sections. Section 1 is entitled "Opening or Chalice Lighting hymns." Some hymns have words which, although written in the 19th century, still hold true today. The first hymns, written by Longfellow and Thoreau, are two such hymns. There are also hymns using the new words of Robin Tanner and Richard Gilbert, including the radical inclusivity of "We Bid You Welcome." In these new hymns, we are invited to "sing a new song for a new day." (Hymn #4).

Section 2 is a collection of hymns with a meditative spirit that could be used before or after the Offertory. They include "Bellsound," a litany starting with the words "Quiet as...", with words by Mark Belletini. This hymn can be accompanied by piano or handbells. Hymn #12, "Soar with Me" is a "pocket song" in which printed words are not really needed. There are two songs with words taken from Emerson, "The Stars Awaken Reverence" and "When in the Woods." There is also a hymn of passing, suitable for memorial (or Memorial Day) services or even Dia de los Muertos, "We remember those who once shared their lives with us, but they will never leave our sides. They become a part of us..."

Section 3, "Closing Hymns," summarizes our common purpose. These hymns include "Each Step I Take," with the thought that "Each step I take brings me one step closer to the well of life." "Love is the Spirit of This Church" is a hymn which reflects the wisdom of the 19th century Unitarian minister, James Villa Blake, while Hymn #20 reminds us that "Unitarian Universalists have open hearts and minds. We all are linked by common threads, our family is humankind."

The final section contains hymns meant for multi-generational services. These include a setting of "The Seven Principles" as well as "Give Us the Spirit of the Child." Children can appreciate "The Yo-yo Song" with its message of hope: "Life is like a yo yo, sometimes it goes up and sometimes it goes down." Finally, "We're Family" shares the message that we are all one, regardless of color, gender, sexual orientation, or wealth. "To be gay or straight is not a choice, only we can hear our inner voice. We are all part of the human race, everyone is born with amazing grace."

This book is offered in the hope that we may enjoy a musical language together which expresses our deepest faith traditions and also looks to the future with joy and spirit.

Wally Kleucker Music Director Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church

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Section 1: Opening or Chalice Lighting HYMNS

- 1. A Day of Sunshine (Longfellow)
- 2. In Equal Measure (Thoreau)
- 3. Let My Mind Be Open
- 4. Sing a New Song For a New Day
- 5. The Season of Possibility (Rev. Robin Tanner)
- 6. We Bid You Welcome! (Rev. Richard S. Gilbert)
- 7. We Light Our Flaming Chalice

Section 2: Meditation HYMNS

- 8. Bellsound (Rev. Mark Belletini)
- 9. Beauty Is Before Me (Navajo prayer)
- 10. From the Depth of Winter's Chill (Henry Berne)
- 11. We Remember
- 12. O My Mother the Earth (Tewa prayer)
- 13. Soar With Me
- 14. The Stars Awaken Reverence (Emerson)
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- 17. Common Ground
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- 19. Love Is the Spirit of This Church (James Vila Blake)
- 20. Our Family Is Humankind
- 21. Seekers of Truth
- 22. When the WinterWinds Blow

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- 23. The Seven Principles
- 24. The Spirit of the Child (Rev. Sarah Moores Campbell York)
- 25. The Yo-yo Song (We Can Change the World)
- 26. We're Family



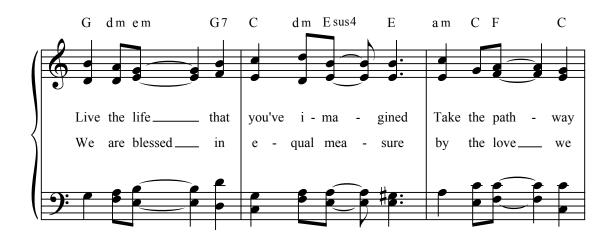
Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (from "Birds of Passage")

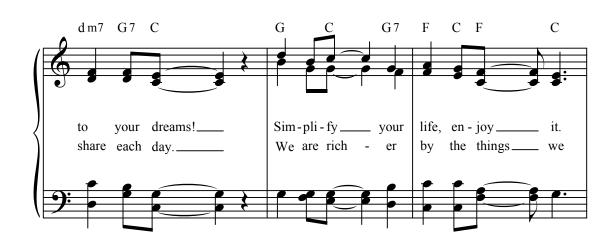


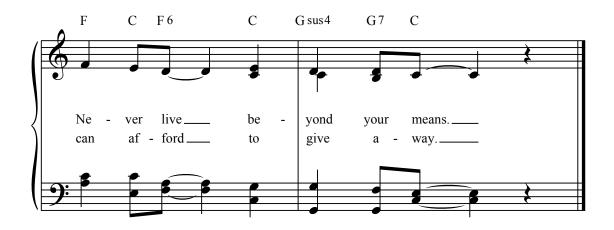
In Equal Measure



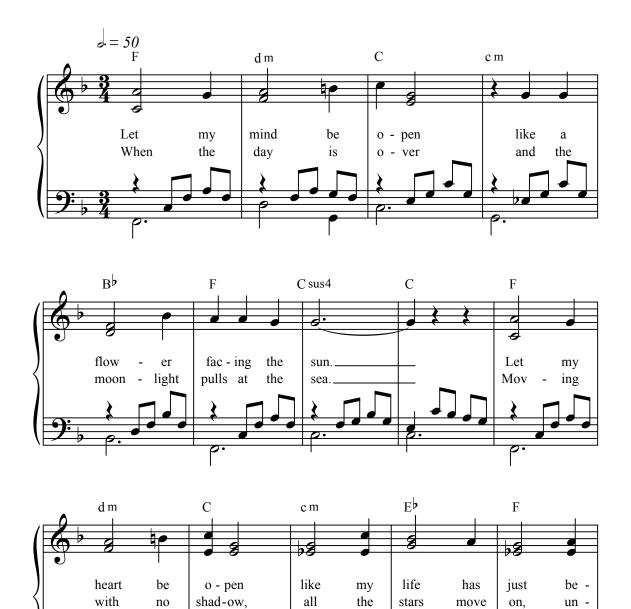
Words: Henry David Thoreau, adapted by Wally Kleucker







Let My Mind Be Open



Words: Malinda Kleucker Music: Wally Kleucker

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4

Sing a New Song



Words: Malinda Kleucker Music: Wally Kleucker



Words: Rev. Robin Noelle Tanner Music: Wally Kleucker









Words: Rev. Richard S. Gilbert Music: Wally Kleucker





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We Light Our Flaming Chalice



Words: Piedmont UU Church Chalice Lighting

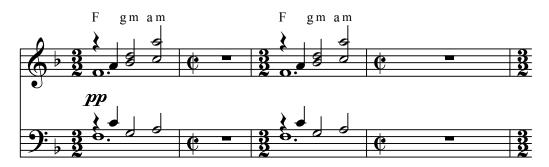
SECTION 2

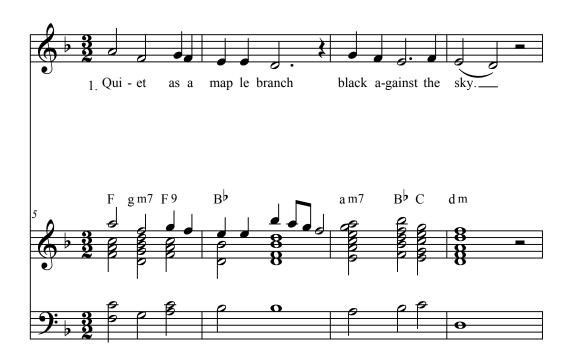
MEDITATION HYMNS

- 8. Bellsound
- 9. Beauty Is Before Me
- 10. From the Depth of Winter's Chill
- 11. We Remember
- 12. O My Mother the Earth
- 13. Soar With Me
- 14. The Stars Awaken Reverence
- 15. When In the Woods

(can be played by handbells, chimes or keyboard)

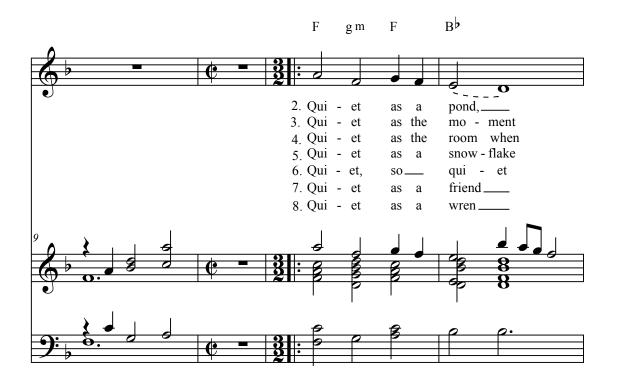
Slowly = 56

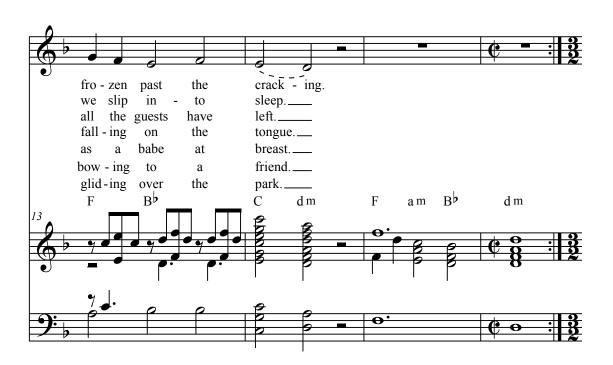


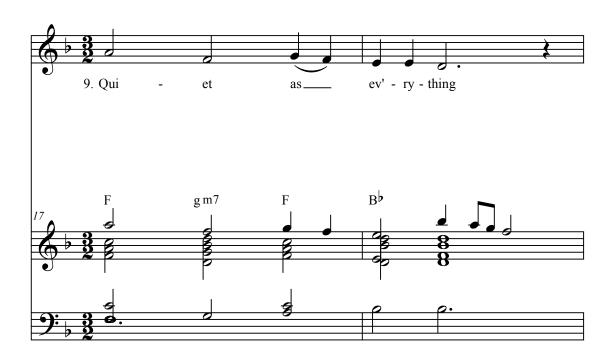


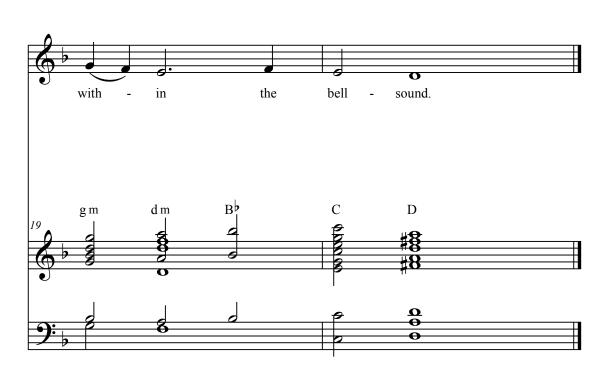
Words: Rev. Mark Belletini

(from Sonata for Voice and Silence) with permission: Skinner House









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Beauty Is Before Me



Words: Navajo prayer Music: Wally Kleucker



10 From the Depth of Winter's Chill



Words: Henry Berne Music: Wally Kleucker





We Remember



Words & music: Wally Kleucker

12 O Our Mother the Earth



Words: Traditional Tewa prayer

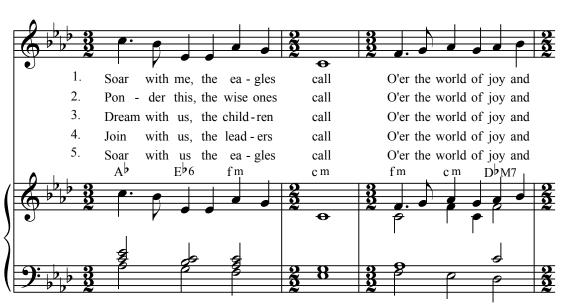






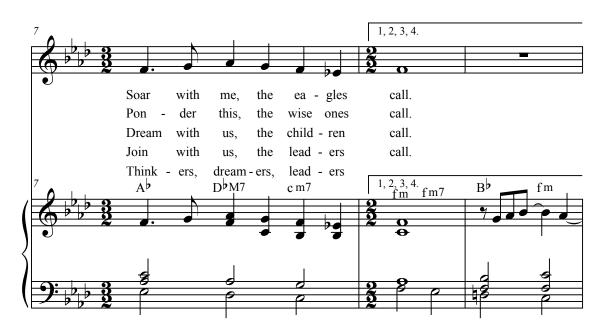
Soar With Me

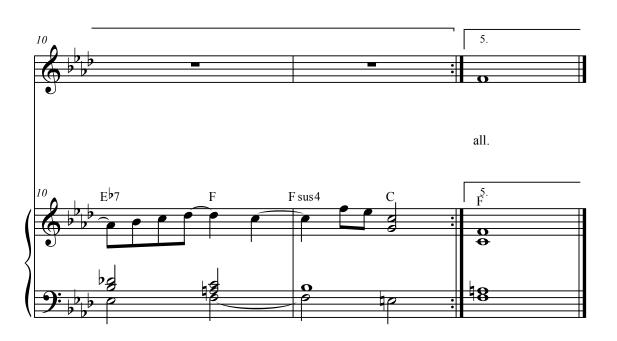






Words: Anonymous Music: Wally Kleucker





14 The Stars Awaken Reverence



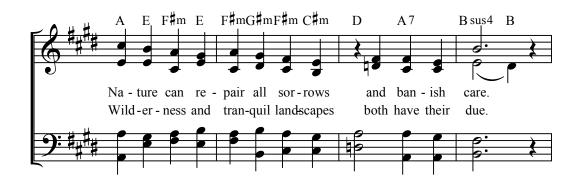
Words: Ralph Waldo Emerson, adapted by Wally Kleucker

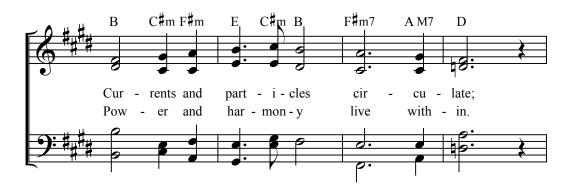
Music: Wally Kleucker



15 When In the Woods

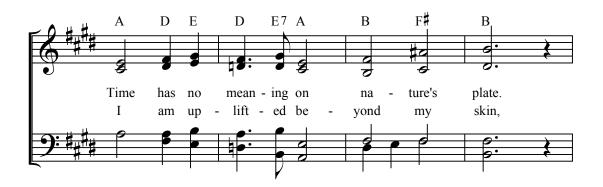


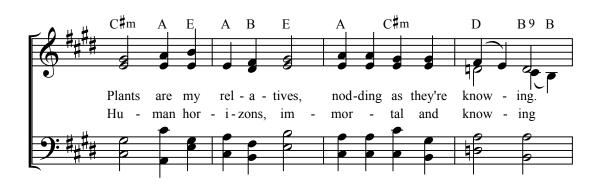


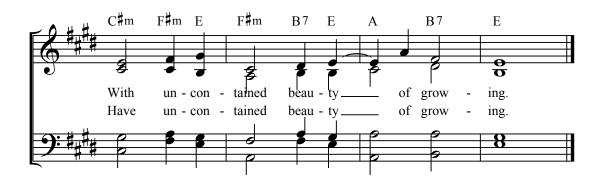


Words: Ralph Waldo Emerson, adapted by Malinda Kleucker

Music: Wally Kleucker







SECTION 3

CLOSING HYMNS

- 16. Along the Road of Peace
- 17. Common Ground
- 18. Each Step I Take
- 19. Love Is the Spirit of This Church
- 20. Our Family Is Humankind
- 21. Seekers of Truth
- 22. When the Winter Winds Blow

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Along the Road of Peace



Words & Music: Wally Kleucker



CLOSING HYMNS Common Ground

Flowing



Words: Malinda Kleucker Music: Wally Kleucker



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Each Step I Take

Moderate pace (= c.88)

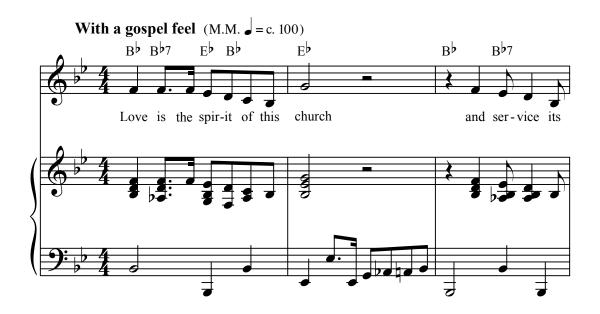


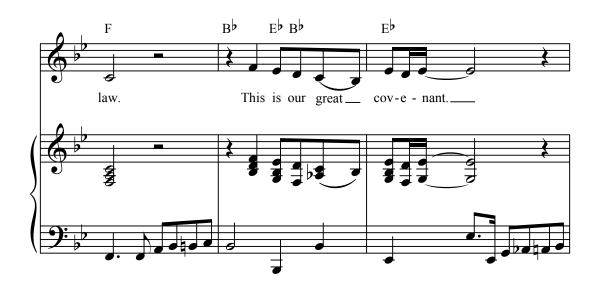
Words & music: Wally Kleucker



CLOSING HYMNS

19 Love Is the Spirit of This Church





Words: James Vila Blake Music: Wally Kleucker



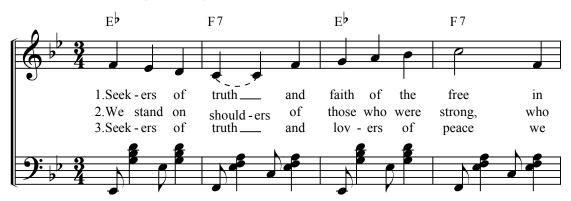
Our Family Is Humankind

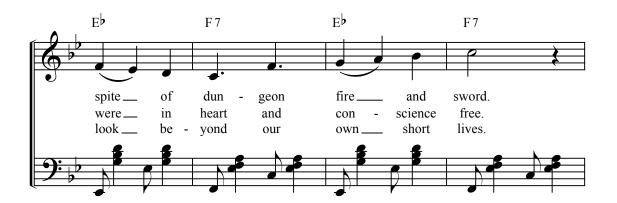


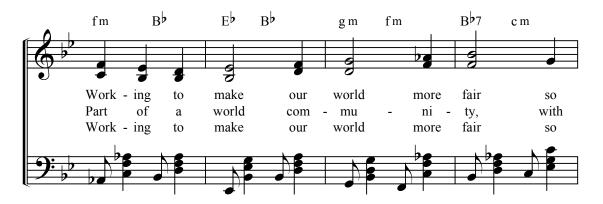
Words & music: Wally Kleucker



Seekers of Truth



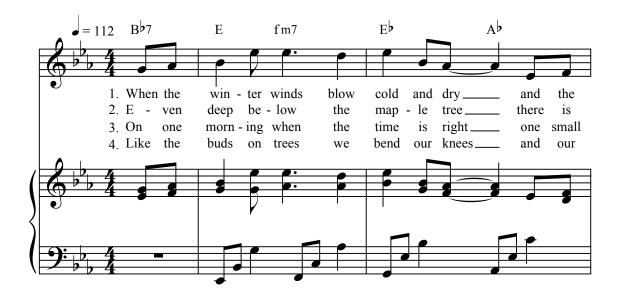


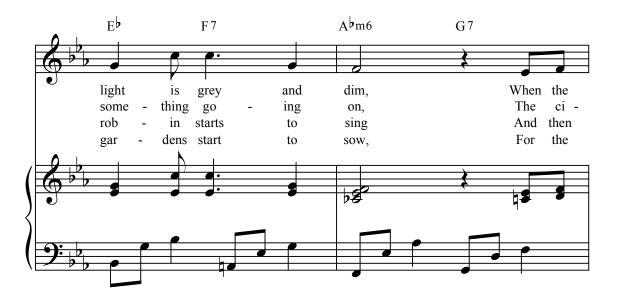


Words: Malinda Kleucker Music: Wally Kleucker

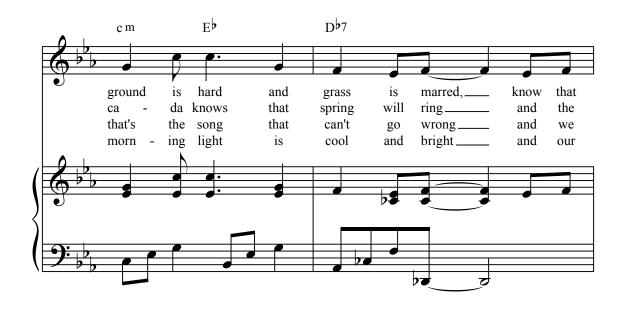


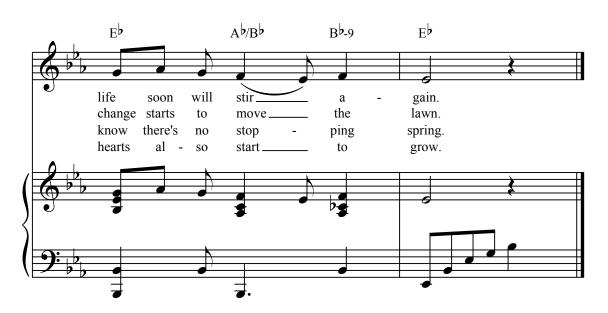
22 When the Winter Winds Blow





Words: Malinda Kleucker Music: Wally Kleucker





SECTION 4

HYMNS FOR MULTI-GENERATIONAL SERVICES

- 23. The Seven Principles
- 24. Give Us the Spirit of the Child
- 25. The Yo-yo Song
- 26. We're Family

The Seven Principles



Words: The Principles and Purposes of the UU Association of Congregations, adapted by Wally Kleucker Music: Wally Kleucker



24 Give Us the Spirit of the Child



Words: Rev. Sarah Moores Campbell York

Music: Wally Kleucker







The Yoyo Song

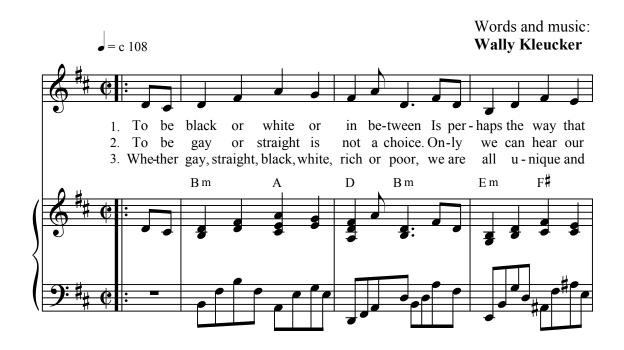
(We Can Change the World)

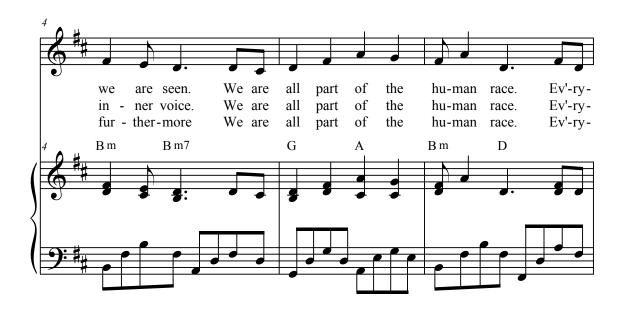


Words & music: Wally Kleucker



We're Family





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Acknowledgements

I am eternally grateful to four contemporary Unitarian Universalist ministers who gave me permission to set their text to music: Dr. Richard S. Gilbert, Dr. Mark Belletini, Sarah Moores Campbell York, and Robin Noelle Tanner. Their words inspire and charge us to choose the bold, uncompromising radically-inclusive connections and actions that change and transform us in the process.

Thanks also to Mary Benard and Skinner House Books for permission to use "Bellsound" from "Sonata for Voice and Silence," by Mark Belletini.

I am also grateful for permission to use the chalice lighting words of the Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church.

Wisdom from the past is an important source of inspiration in this hymnal, including Emerson, Thoreau, James Vila Blake and Native American prayers from the Tewa and the Navaho. Also much appreciation is felt for my dear friend, Dr. Henry Berne, whose words inspired me to write music again after a long period of dormancy.

The children's choir of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte was the source of inspiration for writing the songs in Section 4: *Hymns for Multi-generational Services*. While I was children's choir director there, I re-discovered the joy of music through the eyes, the ears, the hearts and minds of the children. What a privilege it is to be transformed through this musical connection with young people whose love, as Antoine de St.-Exupery wrote, "...like a carefully loaded ship, crosses the gulf between the generations."

And "Hymns of Joy and Spirit" could not have been written without my wife, Malinda Kleucker. Fully six of the hymns' text are due to her inspiration. She also spent countless hours editing, researching, designing the front cover, and assembling.

Finally, many thanks and hugs to my daughter, Lisa Kleucker, who took hundreds of photos from our flower garden and whose photo is on the front cover.

In music,

Wally Kleucker