

The Moravian Music Foundation

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To: Pastors and Musicians
From: Christopher G. Ogburn, Ph.D., Executive Director and Staff Musicologist
Subject: Moravian Music Sunday: May 18, 2025

Recognizing that music is a means of proclaiming the Gospel, Northern and Southern Provinces approved and designated (in 1968) Moravian Music Sunday for the fifth Sunday of Easter, which will be **May 18, 2025** (but it is acceptable to celebrate whenever it is convenient for you).

This year, we will be celebrating the 200th birthday of both Georg Friedrich Hellström (1825–1912) and Henri Marc Hermann Woldemar Voullaire (1825–1902) with our theme: **Celebrating Hellström, Voullaire, and Moravian Romanticism: Treasures of 19th Century Moravian Music**. This is a perfect excuse to explore some of the 19th century works that are often overlooked in favor of the earlier “Golden Age” of 18th century Moravian composition.

WORSHIP PLANNING

Materials designed to assist your worship planning team in the preparation for Moravian Music Sunday are available in PDF format on the Moravian Music Foundation’s website (www.MoravianMusic.org). We’ll also be happy to send you WORD documents upon your request (for these materials, please contact Chris at christopher@moravianmusic.org). We offer a proposed order of worship, a bulletin insert, and a statement which may be read as part of your Moravian Music Sunday celebration.

Of course, you may include more music than is listed in the order of worship! In planning this service, we encourage you to make use of all the musicians in your congregation, from children through adults. While we do celebrate the music of those who have come before, it is equally important that we remember we are all part of a living tradition. As Moravians have done for centuries, we encourage congregations to consider including any new music written by members and friends; if you ask soon, someone may be inspired to write a hymn text or music based upon the themes of the service (if they do, please share it with us!).

Please let us know what you have done with your celebration; we like to share ideas with others and learn from your experience.