

# The Moravian Music Foundation

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To: Pastors and Musicians

From: Nola Reed Knouse, Director



Subject: Moravian Music Sunday: May 15, 2022

Recognizing that music is a means of proclaiming the Gospel, we celebrate Moravian Music Sunday on the fifth Sunday of Easter, which, in 2022, is **May 15**. This year we celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Herrnhut, Germany, which remains the administrative (and for many, the spiritual) center of the worldwide Moravian unity.

May we never forget that Herrnhut was founded not as a “church plant” or as a newly planned town, peopled by prosperous individuals. Herrnhut was a settlement of refugees – people who left their homes behind in the search for a better life where they could worship as they wished. They were welcomed by Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf, a Count of the Holy Roman Empire who took seriously God’s deeply counter-cultural call to welcome immigrants and refugees, to love those most in need, and to build a community of faith based upon the life and teachings of Jesus. Thus the very existence of Herrnhut reminds us of our own call to welcome refugees and immigrants and to love one another, even – or especially – those least like ourselves.

Moravians then took it a step further, reaching out from Herrnhut to strangers in other lands and building a network of missionary settlements around the world. The Moravians have led the world in serving the under-served, the oppressed, and populations without agency.

Moreover, we recall that Matthew 2:13-15 tells us that the Holy Family, Mary, Joseph and Jesus, were refugees in Egypt, fleeing from a wicked king who would have killed the child. The hymns and anthems suggested for this occasion reflect this emphasis, so relevant to the twenty-first century three hundred years after the founding of Herrnhut.

## WORSHIP PLANNING

Materials designed to assist your worship planning team in the preparation for Moravian Music Sunday are available on the Moravian Music Foundation’s website ([www.MoravianMusic.org/moravian-music-sunday](http://www.MoravianMusic.org/moravian-music-sunday)). We’ll be happy to send you a “hard copy” upon your request. 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. The full-page size order of worship includes some notes and suggestions you may want to consider for the sermon.

Any and all of these materials may be posted on your church's website. However, one of the hymns suggested, *When We Lift Our Pack and Go*, is under copyright, so for posting that text or music on your website, or livestreaming, you will need to be sure you have the necessary licensing. This hymn is covered by OneLicense.net, but not under CCLI; if you do not subscribe to OneLicense, you may opt to get the annual license or a single-use event license for this occasion; see [www.OneLicense.net](http://www.OneLicense.net) for the details.

Of course, you may include more music than is listed in the order of worship! We encourage you to make use of all of the musicians in your congregation, from children through adults. It would be wonderful to include any new music written by members and friends of your congregation; 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!).

The order of worship includes some brief suggestions for a possible focus for the sermon and prayers. Two versions of the order of worship are provided on the website. The "full page size" is scaled for an 8 ½ x 11 inch page, and the text is allowed to flow as it will, without attention to page breaks; this is for those who want to "cut and paste" it into your own bulletin format. The "half-sheet formatted" file is set up for copying back-to-back to create an insert which may be used alone or within your bulletin.

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

And also – this does not have to take place on May 15; you may celebrate whenever it is convenient for you! Herrnhut's anniversary celebration will span the entire year!