



Moravian Music Sunday May 19, 2019 *in celebration of the truth that Christ makes all things new!*

Today, we thank God for the gift of music, a heart-felt expression of the faith, love, and hope that we share as brothers and sisters in Christ. Music often touches our hearts, gently moving past the defenses we raise with the spoken word; singing and playing music together, we are joined in Christian unity and challenged to show love to one another.

Through our music, old and new, we are reminded that we follow a Savior who does, indeed, make all things new. Through his life, sufferings, death, and resurrection, Jesus Christ brought about a new creation, defeating the age-old enemy, death, and inviting all of creation to share in new life forevermore. Today we may sing new songs written by living followers of Christ – it's easy then to celebrate the God who makes all things new! And we may sing old songs written by those who were long ago called to the more immediate presence of Christ. These songs, too, were once new songs, and continue to express our faith in ways that are always renewing.

The Moravian Music Foundation honors the music of our ancestors, and cultivates the composition of new music and words to express our praise and adoration. Moravian composers are male and female, young and old, clergy and lay people, professionally trained and musical amateurs. Moravian music, no matter when or by whom it was created, is an expression of the faith we share, the relationship we have with our Lord Jesus Christ and with one another, in his service.

We are grateful that God gave us the gift of music, an audible form of comfort, celebration, and worship which connects us to our past, and binds us to one another, and to our God. Let us all praise the Savior with music, and cry in our hearts and voices, "And now make us new, too! So we may be the church you want to minister this very hour!" (*text by the Rev. C. Riddick Weber*)

On this day, set aside to acknowledge our Moravian musical heritage, we lift our hearts and our voices in praise and thanksgiving. We express our thanks to the musicians among us who create and arrange, who organize and direct, who nurture and teach, and who play and sing. And, especially, we give thanks to God for the cherished gift of music, one of the ways in which Christ indeed makes all things new. Amen.

The photo above is the cover of "Sing to the Lord a New Song", published in 2013 and containing 80 new hymns and songs by Moravian composers. Available from the Interprovincial Board of Communication IBOC (store.moravian.org) or from Moravian Music Foundation (moravianmusic.org/shop)