

Statement to Be Read for Moravian Music Sunday 2022

Why should we celebrate Moravian Music Sunday? This is a Moravian church, and we have music, so isn't *every* Sunday Moravian Music Sunday? Of course it is! And yet, every Sunday is a celebration of Easter; yet we celebrate Easter in very special ways. Every Sunday is a time for renewal of mission and service; yet we observe special occasions when we focus on those key activities of the church. So today we focus our attention on music as one of God's special gifts.

We often say that, as Moravians, we sing our faith. One of our bishops a few years ago said bluntly, "If you don't sing it, you don't believe it!" We sing songs of praise and thanksgiving in response to God's goodness. We sing songs of lament for our sorrow and sin. We sing songs reminding us of who – and whose – we are. And we use our instruments for the same purpose; not all "singing" need be done by the voice!

This Sunday we celebrate the joy that God has given the ability to write music and words to so many Moravians over the centuries. Our music unites us in worship, prayer, joy and sorrow. Often our music draws others to the church. They may come because they're curious about the music, or love what they are hearing – but they'll stay and become involved only if they see us living up to what we are singing and playing. If we sing it, then let us believe it; if we believe it, then let us live it, together.

The Moravian Music Foundation is an interprovincial agency of the Moravian Church in America, Northern and Southern Provinces. The Moravian Music Foundation preserves, shares, and celebrates Moravian music through publications and recordings, workshops and events, and Moravian Music Festivals. Visit the Foundation's website – www.MoravianMusic.org – for more information, and please contact the Foundation's office in Bethlehem or Winston-Salem if the staff can serve you or this congregation. Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things!