

## Statement To Be Read for Moravian Music Sunday 2024

An argument has been made that perhaps every Sunday is Moravian Music Sunday and on a certain level that is true. Imagine a service without a liturgy, without hymns, anthems, or a benediction. The message of the service might remain, but all the color would be gone. All of the qualities that make us who we are would disappear. From the earliest years of the church, music has been used by the Moravians to spread God's message, to build community, and to praise the beauty and glory of God.

This year, we take our inspiration from our motto: ***“In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; and in all things, love.”*** These words remind us of how we are all united together in a common purpose bound by our love for one another and God's love for each and every one of us. Today, we take the time to consider the power of music in this process of unification. Centuries ago, the ancient Greeks viewed the study of music as the key to unlocking and understanding the forces that joined the universe together. A remnant of this legacy may be seen in our word *harmony*, which comes from the Greek, *harmonia*, and refers to the state of being unified, whether in music or elsewhere. Through music, we hear what happens when disparate voices and instruments come together for a common purpose. In this act of joining our voices, we manifest the unity that comes from God's love. On this Sunday, may our music inspire harmony both within our own lives and in the lives of those we meet outside these walls.

Moravian Music Sunday offers the opportunity to celebrate the joy of music and its importance in the lives of so many Moravians over the centuries. We are reminded today of the importance of our musical heritage and the beauty and comfort it has provided us for generations. The Moravian Music Foundation is an interprovincial agency of the Moravian Church in America, Northern and Southern Provinces. It preserves, shares, and celebrates Moravian music through publications and recordings, workshops and events, educational outreach, and Moravian Music Festivals. The Foundation is the custodian of this legacy, but as Moravians, this music is your inheritance. While we enjoy and cherish our music, we must also protect it for those who have yet to come. Visit the Foundation's website – [www.MoravianMusic.org](http://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!*