

# Trinity United Methodist Church

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Prayer Ministries of TUMC offers this monthly brochure to our congregation and a circle of interested others as a compact source of daily meditations. We hope the language and the images—the articulations both ancient and modern—will bless you, awaken you, stir your imagination, open you to Sacred Mystery, help you commit to the kind of wholeness that Jesus taught and modeled, and equip you for the daily living of our church's mission statement:

Know God. Be transformed. Love.

## October 2017

# O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

### Sunday, October 1

Hurricane Harvey has come and gone. As we struggle to understand how 34 trillion gallons of water could have fallen from the sky onto our state and Louisiana, we have in a sense become exiles: life took a shocking turn for us, and the land we now survey, both outwardly and inwardly, is not the same. At such a time, one of the greatest helps available to us is song.

### Monday, October 2

The exiles are called to sing songs in a strange land; they discover in their singing that the land is not so strange. Even this alien land is claimed for the rule of Yahweh.

Walter Brueggemann,  
*Cadences of Home: Preaching to Exiles*

### Tuesday, October 3

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my  
God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

Charles Wesley, 1739

### Wednesday, October 4

The secret of song is the Church's most distinctive resource, not because music is more powerful than the Word or the Spirit, but because song is a means by which both can become so joyously conjoined—by ALL the people of the Lord!

Excerpt from preface of *The Celebration Hymnal*,  
songbook of Stonebriar Community Church, Frisco, Texas

### Thursday, October 5 – the climate of song

Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm: "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the morning stars sang together, and all the angels shouted for joy?"

Job 38:1,4-7

### Friday, October 6 – the conduit of song

Men cry out under a load of oppression; they plead for relief from the arm of the powerful. But no one says, "Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night, who teaches more to us than to the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the air?"

Job 35:9-10

### Saturday, October 7

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I hear the sweet tho' far-off hymn that hails a new creation; thro' all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing; it finds an echo in my soul—how can I keep from singing? What tho' my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth; what tho' the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.

Words: anonymous, music: Robert Lowry,  
published in the 1869 songbook  
*Bright Jewels for the Sunday School*

### Sunday, October 8

Carolina wrens possess amazing singing ability and song variety. The male sings a voluminously rolling song sounding like the words "tea-kettle-tea-kettle." As the female constructs the nest, the male guards her while singing any number of more than 50 songs from his repertoire. Perhaps we love our birds and guard them because we understand a basic human value—life is precious.

Gary Clark, Texas naturalist

### Monday, October 9 – the claim of song

"Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband," says the LORD.

Isaiah 54:1

### Tuesday, October 10

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that refuge clinging; since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing? I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it; and day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it; the peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing; all things are mine since I am his—how can I keep from singing?

Words: anonymous, music: Robert Lowry,  
published in the 1869 songbook  
*Bright Jewels for the Sunday School*

**Wednesday, October 11** – song, the conquering instrument

After consulting the people, King Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: “Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.” 2 Chronicles 20:21

**Thursday, October 12**

We live in a time when new music for worship is constantly appearing. Further resources for worship will continue to be developed. This book is a way station on the continuing journey of God’s people.  
Hoyt L. Hickman, general editor of *The Faith We Sing*

**Friday, October 13**

Sing a new song to the Lord, he to whom wonders belong!  
*The Faith We Sing* #2045, Timothy Dudley-Smith

**Saturday, October 14**

Sing alleluia to the Lord! Sing alleluia, alleluia!  
*The Faith We Sing* #2258, early Christian liturgy

**Sunday, October 15**

Our hymnals serve as instruments by which the spiritual heritage received from the past is celebrated in the present and transmitted to future generations. Next to the Bible, our hymnals have been our most formative resource.  
Excerpt from preface to *The United Methodist Hymnal*

**Monday, October 16**

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life; let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life.  
*UM Hymnal* #600, Philip P. Bliss

**Tuesday, October 17**

And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, ‘twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.  
“I Love to Tell the Story,” *UM Hymnal* #156, Katherine Hankey

**Wednesday, October 18**

Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength.  
John Wesley’s Directions for Singing

**Thursday, October 19**

Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song! Death and sorrow, earth’s dark story, to the former days belong.  
*UM Hymnal* #702, William J. Irons

**Friday, October 20**

Strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.  
John Wesley’s Directions for Singing

**Saturday, October 21**

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried, Alleluia!  
*UM Hymnal* #68, Fred Pratt Green

**Sunday, October 22**

Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature  
John Wesley’s Directions for Singing

**Monday, October 23**

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the light? Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight, Alleluia!  
*UM Hymnal* #68, Fred Pratt Green

**Tuesday, October 24**

Love lifted me! Love lifted me! When nothing else could help, Love lifted me!  
James Rowe

**Wednesday, October 25**

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled: To God all praise and glory.  
*UM Hymnal* #126, Johann J. Schutz, 1675

**Thursday, October 26**

Every song of exiles is a new singing of homecoming and possibility. The barren ones sing about the promised future.  
Walter Brueggemann, *Cadences of Home: Preaching to Exiles*

**Friday, October 27**

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid.

**Saturday, October 28**

I’ll strengthen and help thee and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

**Sunday, October 29**

When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow.

**Monday, October 30**

For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.  
*UM Hymnal* #529 “How Firm a Foundation”

**Tuesday, October 31**

**For True Singing**  
Glorious God, source of joy and righteousness, enable us as redeemed and forgiven children evermore to rejoice in singing your praises. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives; so that being doers of the Word and not hearers only, we may receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**  
*UM Hymnal* # 69, Fred D. Gealy