

VOICES *Together*

DIFFERENT GIFTS BUT THE SAME SPIRIT

Voices Together dedication by Sarah Kathleen Johnson

These supplemental resources for dedicating *Voices Together* are only available online. *Voices Together* page numbers were pending at the time of this publication.

Prayer of release

One of the most difficult parts of receiving a new worship and song collection may be letting go of books that have served communities well for many years. Although *Voices Together* is intended to stand alone, since more than half the material comes from *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, *Sing the Journey*, and *Sing the Story*, some communities may continue to keep multiple books in their worship space for a period of time. This prayer of release may be used when removing *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, *Sing the Journey*, and/or *Sing the Story* from the worship space, whether that takes place during a dedication service before the prayer of dedication for *Voices Together* or months or years later.

Invite participants to take nearby copies of Hymnal: A Worship Book, Sing the Journey, and/or Sing the Story into their hands.

Eternal God,
your steadfast love is everlasting.
You have met your people in worship and song for generations.
You have sustained this community in this generation through [*Hymnal: A Worship Book*, *Sing the Journey*,
and *Sing the Story*].
We thank you for melodies and lyrics that have expressed our joy and carried us through hard times.
We thank you for Scripture and prayer, spoken and sung,
that have shaped the seasons and years.
We thank you for the familiar weight in our hands
that reminds us of the power of singing together to you.
With gratitude and grief, we release these books from this space.

Invite participants to bring nearby books forward with the help of ushers and children. Sing a simple short song that can be sung without printed music, such as “Alleluia,” “Kyrie,” “Dona nobis pacem,” “O Lord, Hear My Prayer,” or “Confitemini Domino” (“Come and Fill Our Hearts”). When all the books have been gathered, offer the following prayer.

Faithful God,
with gratitude and grief, we release these books from this space.
Although these books will no longer be here, the song goes on.
Some songs remain part of our worship in new hymnals.
Some songs continue to echo in our hearts.
Your steadfast love is everlasting. Amen.

Respectfully remove the books from the worship space.

Additional song and worship resource suggestions

Songs

Focus songs for *Voices Together* dedication

Summoned by the God Who Made Us
I Will Sing with You
We, Your People, Sing Your Praises
(Bon Berger, ton peuple t'adore)

Psalm 100

Alleluia/Make a Joyful Noise (Psalm 100)
All People That on Earth Do Dwell
Lord, You Are Good

1 Corinthians 12

One Is the Body
There Are Many Gifts
You're Not Alone
Somos el cuerpo de Cristo
(We Are the Body of Christ)
Ososo (Come Now, O Prince of Peace)
We Are One in the Spirit
Summoned by the God Who Made Us

Isaiah 11:6-9

We Dream of a Turning
O Day of Peace

Gathering with children

God Welcomes All
Come On, Children, to the Gospel Feast
Let the Children Come to Me

Worship and Scripture resources

Gathering, Praising, and Reconciling

Peace Be with You
Christ Is like a Single Body
We Are People Who Must Sing You
Sing and Sing
Hosanna!
You Who Open Doors
Friends in Christ
SCRIPTURE Psalm 100
SCRIPTURE Isaiah 42:10-11
SCRIPTURE Psalm 47:1, 6-7

Praying

Prayer Jesus Taught
Speak to Us, Living God
O God, Listening to Us Here
Gracious God, We Pray for Your Universal Church
SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 12:4-7
SCRIPTURE James 5:13-16

Giving

What Will You Offer the Body of Christ Today?

Sending

From Where We Are
God of Power, May the Boldness of Your Spirit
Eternal God, You Call Us to Ventures
SCRIPTURE Ephesians 4:1-6
SCRIPTURE Ephesians 3:20-21

Sample worship outlines

The *Voices Together* dedication resources can be combined in a variety of ways. Consider these starter outlines. Adapt for balance and to suit your context.

Short dedication within an unrelated worship service

Scripture worship resource

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (read by one leader)

Prayer of dedication

Song (choose one)

- Summoned by the God Who Made Us
- I Will Sing with You

Contemporary worship focused on a *Voices Together* dedication

Song

- Well-known song in *Voices Together* and *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

Opening prayer

Songs

- Well-known song in *Voices Together* but not in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*
- New song in *Voices Together*

Scripture worship resource

- Psalm 100

Song

- Well-known song in *Voices Together*

Welcome and greeting

ARTWORK *Peace in Many Languages* (projection)

Announcements

Prayer requests and prayer

Giving

Song

- New song in *Voices Together*, sung by the worship team as congregation listens

Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-27

Sermon

Prayer of dedication

Draw on the themes of joining together in worship and song, asking God for the spiritual gifts needed to do so, and dedicating our worship and Voices Together to God with gratitude.

Song (choose one)

- I Will Sing with You
- Summoned by the God Who Made Us

Closing prayer

Traditional worship focused on a *Voices Together* dedication

Gathering

Welcome

Call to worship or opening prayer (choose one worship resource)

- Christ Is like a Single Body
- You Who Open Doors
- We Are a People Who Must Sing You

Songs and Scripture worship resource

- Well-known song in *Voices Together* and *Hymnal: A Worship Book*
- Psalm 100
- Well-known song in *Voices Together* but not in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

Word

Children's time with visual art

Song

Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-27 (include prayer in worship resources "Speak to Us, Living God")

Sermon

Song (choose one)

- I Will Sing with You
- Summoned by the God Who Made Us

Response

Prayer of release (optional)

Prayer of dedication

Song (choose one)

- I Will Sing with You
- Summoned by the God Who Made Us

Sharing and congregational prayer (choose one worship resource)

- Prayer Jesus Taught
- O God, Listening to Us Here

Offering worship resource

- What Will You Offer the Body of Christ Today?

Sending

Song

- We Your People Sing Your Praises (Bon Berger, ton peuple t'adore)

Sending words (choose one worship or Scripture resource)

- God of Power, May the Boldness of Your Spirit
- Ephesians 4:1-6
- Ephesians 3:20-21

Hymn sing, song fest, or worship night focused on a *Voices Together* dedication

A hymn sing or worship night allows more space and time for telling the stories behind songs and teaching songs in ways that are less suitable to Sunday worship.

Gathering

Song

- Summoned by the God Who Made Us

Welcome and prayer

Songs

- Well-known song in *Voices Together* and *Hymnal: A Worship Book*
- Well-known song in *Voices Together* but not in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

Scripture resource

- Psalm 100

Song

- New song in *Voices Together*

Word

Children's time/*visio divina*

Song

Scripture resource

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Song

Sharing stories and song requests

Song

Response

Prayer of release (optional) with short song

Prayer of dedication

Song

- I Will Sing with You

Sending

Thank you, announcements, sending words

Song

- We Your People Sing Your Praises (Bon Berger, ton peuple t'adore)



Sarah Kathleen Johnson is the worship resources editor for *Voices Together* and the editor of the *Voices Together* worship leader edition. Other members of the Mennonite Worship and Song Committee contributed to the creation of the dedication resources.