

Dear Fellow Members,

It's easy to know why the old familiar hymn, "All People That On Earth Do Dwell" came to me this morning as I awakened to the sound of heavy rain showers.

Last evening I had been reading the COVID-19 global statistics for the 199 countries and territories of the world to try to understand the magnitude of this new virus that quickly moved worldwide and became labeled a pandemic by the World Health Organization.

This hymn, based on Psalm 100 and written in 1561, is attributed to the Scottish clergyman William Kethe. The tune, OLD HUNDRETH is perhaps the best known and most widely used of all psalm tunes and is attributed to Louis Bourgeois, French composer and music theorist of the Renaissance.

As the world faces this virus, I suggest today that we each take time to sing or listen to this hymn and its words as we ponder the connectedness of all of us living on this earth and our connectedness with our creator. This sure makes me think of our UCC motto "That they may all be one", does it you?

"All People That On Earth Do Dwell"

All people that on earth do dwell, sing out you faith with cheerful voice; delight in God whose praise you tell, whose presence calls you to rejoice. Know that there is one God indeed, who fashions us without our aid, Who claims us, gives us all we need, whose tender care will never fade. Enter the sacred gates with praise, with joy approach the temple walls, Extol and bless our God always as people whom the Spirit calls. Proclaim again that God is good, whose mercy is forever sure, Whose truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure."

Then, in closing, since this was the hymn writer's paraphrase of Psalm 100, I suggest that we each reread or for those who have it stored in our memories, recite this powerful, familiar psalm.

May you be blessed as we join our worldwide family in stopping the spread of this virus and may we be sustained by our faith and ministry.

Bob