

# Go And... Sing

## July 18, 2024 Minutes

Number of Participants: 17 participants (7:40 pm)

### **Welcome and Opening Prayer: Rev. Danielle McCleary**

### **Dwelling in the Word: Lynn Perry, Grace Mendham**

- Luke 1: 46 “My soul magnifies the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God, my savior. My soul magnifies the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God”
- Lynn read the passage once, then sang it twice, and then we listened to a full choir rendition of the song by Zoe Group
  - Listen on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52lvGJMeKEA>
- We discussed how we heard the words differently when it was sung vs. spoken with the traditional Dwelling in the Word prompts:
  - What word or phrase grabs your attention?
  - What was God telling you?

### **How music builds community: Rev. Gladys Moore, retired**

- Music is the handmaid of theology - Luther
- Some of the best preaching comes through music
- Music can bring healing, hope, and soothe broken spirits and bodies. It can challenge people to do justice, it creates community
- Civil Rights Movement - music was incredibly important - people would sing while marching “we shall overcome”
  - Created and sustained community during difficult times
- Black Lives Matter Movement was sustained by music while folks marched down the streets singing “aint nobody going to turn me around”
- Freedom is Coming: songs of protest and praise from South Africa
  - Some of the hymns from this have joined the ELCA hymnal
  - Send Me, Lord - Thuma mina (ELW 809)
  - We Are Marching - Siyahumba (ELW 866)
- No matter what is happening, remember you are a beloved child of God and you are marching in God’s mercy and grace

*Shared in the chat:* “Mark Mummert, the musician at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia when I (Judy Anderson) was a student, once said that ‘folks will leave humming the words of a hymn NOT your sermon”

### **How music can build bridges: Rev. Menzi Nkambule**

- Mdali Wethu, song in isiXhosa and isiZulu “God Our Creator, be with us”
  - Listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXHF83q4MoA>

- Read translation and means here:  
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:afd2fcd6-41de-4f02-a070-99879372e900>
- Written 13 years after Apartheid ended while the scars and exhaustion for racial discrimination were still very evident which is reflected in the song
  - “We know our enemies are lurking”
  - “We are not at war with anyone but we are being killed”
  - “Give us strength to protect ourselves”
  - “Give us hearts like those of lions”
- Song reflects a desire for God’s help in overcoming challenges
- Song invites the lament and turns justified feelings of anger and pain into courage to love and united against all that divides us

**How music feeds the soul: Rev. Dianne Lewis and Annette Morris, Trinity Jersey City**

- Pastor Dianne reflected on how she is fed through the Gospel music her congregation sings in worship - I feed others but am fed through the music we sing together
  - “I deliver the message but I also need to hear the message” and music allows her to hear and feel the Word of God!
- Much of the music we use comes right out the Bible and echoes what we believe
- Matthew 28: 18-20 “Go ye therefore and teach all nations”
  - We are called to baptize, preach, teach, and feed one another to go and share the good news every day
- Music holds the message to the path God has already laid for us
- Listen closely and see how it can feed your soul
- Listen and watch to the beautiful reflection from the choir at Trinity, Jersey City
  - [https://video.wixstatic.com/video/9ac1c0\\_23673afe167b4f228f8af638f9ed954d/720p/mp4/file.mp4](https://video.wixstatic.com/video/9ac1c0_23673afe167b4f228f8af638f9ed954d/720p/mp4/file.mp4)

**Wrap up: Lois Paret**

- “I’m not usually speechless but I kind of am” - reflecting on the power of the testimonies shared
- What are some ways your congregation is already using music to share the Good News?
  - Deb MacBride, Our Savior Haddenfield: I sing for hospice and sing bedside to bring comfort and peace to folks regardless of your faith or background - songs are intentional and specific for those who are actively dying.
- What are some new ways or new places where you can use singing/music to share the Good News?

**Closing: Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund**

- Salaam Aleikum - Singing In Community 49
- Go and join the ELCA Youth Gathering Live!

**Go And Planning Team:**

- Rev. Maristela Freiberg, Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to Bishop
- Rev. Jay Berry, St. Mark's Oaklyn
- Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund, Messiah Oakland
- Rev. Danielle McCleary, St. Matthew Secaucus
- Lois Parrett, Abiding Presence Ewing, and NJ Synod Staff
- Rev. Judy Anderson, St. Thomas Brick
- Rev. Dianne Lewis, Trinity Jersey City
- Rev. Menzi Nkambule, St. Matthew Jersey City
- Rev. Joe Graumann, St. Stephen Woodbury
- Jill Collict, Faith Hillsborough

# Salaam aleikum

*May Peace Be in Your Hearts*

Leader \*\*Sa - laam a - lei - kum, sa - laam a - lei - kum,

Assembly

Ho - yah! Ho -

sa - laam a - lei - kum!

Ho - yah, ho - yah, ho - yah, ho - yah, ho - yah!

Ho -

2

yah! Sa - laam a - lei - kum le, sa - laam a - lei - kum  
May peace be in your hearts, may peace be in your

le, sa - laam a - lei - kum le,  
homes, may peace be in your land,

To repeat

Leader Sa - laam a - lei - kum, D.S.

sa - laam a - lei - kum le. le. Ho -  
may peace be in our world. world.

\* Last time, end here.

\*\* Pronunciation: *sah-lahm ah-lay-koom lay*

Text and music: Ghanaian traditional Ghanaian, arr. Marc Anderson and Marty Haugen  
Arrangement © 2007 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com). All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission or reporting usage under valid copyright license.