



HYMN OF THE MONTH – November 2018

“AS GRAIN ON SCATTERED HILLSIDES”

During November, as we celebrate the season of Thanksgiving, the hymn “As Grain on Scattered Hillside” reminds us of God’s harvest, asking Him to gather all His people from various places and cultures to meet in Jesus’ name. It asks us to die to hatred and all harmful ways and be reborn to live in community in peace and praise.

This hymn text is one of the 150-200 texts written by Ruth Duck. Ruth was born in 1947 in Washington D.C. She moved with her family to Memphis, Tennessee where she was exposed to the ministry of Martin Luther King Jr. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Southwestern-at-Memphis University, a Masters of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary, a Masters of Arts from the University of Notre Dame and a Doctor of Theology degree in worship and theology from Boston University School of Theology. Duck was ordained a minister in the United Church of Christ in 1974. She served churches from 1974 to 1989 in Illinois, Wisconsin and Massachusetts. After completing her doctorate, she served as a professor of worship at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary from 1989 until her retirement in 2016. Throughout her career, her focus in her writing and teaching has been on the use of inclusive language that enlarges our sense of God. She has written several books and worship resources and has also served on a number of committees that produced Hymnals including our own Chalice Hymnal for the Disciples of Christ. She has written the texts to eleven hymns in our hymnal, one of which is “Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race.”

The melody of this hymn is titled “Merle’s Tune” and was composed in 1983 by Hal Hopson. Born in 1933, Hopson is a full time composer, church musician and clinician living in Dallas, Texas. He is active as a conductor and clinician, having conducted choral festivals and workshops in United States, Europe, and Asia. More recently he has been recognized for his contribution to music by being included in The International Who's Who in Music, Cambridge, England. Hopson has over 3000 published works which include almost every musical form of church music, including Children’s and Adult Choral, Handbells and Organ. He has composed, arranged, harmonized or adapted the tunes for eleven hymns in our hymnal, four of which use “Merle’s Tune.” I had the privilege of attending one of his Chorister’s Guild clinics in Racine Wisconsin where I learned many valuable techniques for teaching elementary music which I used in my classrooms daily.

“As Grain on Scattered hillsides, when gathered, makes one bread, God gather all your people as one in Christ our head....Come, knead and blend each texture with strong and gentle hands, that we may be one body, one loaf in many lands.”

Resources: Wikipedia, Chalice Hymnal



What is Fair Trade?

Fair Trade is a foundation whose stated goal is to help producers in developing countries achieve better trading conditions. When we purchase Fair Trade Certified items, we are assured that the artisan who made the item or the farmer who raised the food was paid a fair living wage. We are assured that we are not supporting sweat shops or forced labor.

Most of the artisans who make the items for our Fair Trade Bazaar are women. In many instances, these women have no way to provide for themselves and their children if their husband is unable to work or they are widowed. They are often forced to work in very poor conditions for very little money. Some end up working in the sex trade just to put food on the table for their children. Instead of going to school, many children go to work at a young age in order to help support their families.

When we buy Fair Trade items, we are supplying basic needs that most of us take for granted. We are providing food and shelter for a family. We are providing education for a generation of children, so they can have a chance at a better life. We are giving widows a way to make a living with dignity, so they don't have to beg.

When we purchase items at our Fair Trade Bazaar, we are not only supporting more than 20 local and global missions of Disciples Women, but we are making a difference for people around the world. See you at the Fair Trade Bazaar!!

Fair Trade Bazaar and Community Harvest Luncheon Assistance Needed

This is an exciting time for CCC Disciple Women. We are hosting the annual **Fair-Trade Bazaar** on Friday and Saturday, November 2-3, and the **Community Harvest Luncheon** on Friday, November 2.

Respond to Vickie Hilton (vickie_hil@hotmail.com) if you can provide Support at the Bazaar on Friday or Saturday, November 2-3.

Respond to Nancy Johnston (nancy.johnston45@gmail.com) if you can provide any of the following:

- Bring a Salad — If you can help, bring your salad any time on Thursday, November 1, or before 11 am on Friday, November 2 any kind — green, vegetable, fruit, Jello, chicken or ham salad, ...

- "Sit-down" ways to help:

- ◆ Thursday —Putting silverware in sleeves
- ◆ Friday — 8:45-11 Greet guests in hall

- "Standing/walking" ways to help:

- ◆ Thursday, November 1 (10am - Noon) - Help make soup and desserts for luncheon
- ◆ Friday, November 2 (9 am - 3pm) Kitchen Crew — duties include making coffee and tea, receiving and carrying out salads, stirring soup, cutting and plating desserts, soup ladlers, boxing up leftovers for Homeless Shelter, helping the dishwashers put away dishes

Come shop! Learn more about Fair Trade, where each purchase makes a difference in someone's life (see the article here in the Newsletter about Fair Trade).