



## November Hymn of the Month *WE GATHER TOGETHER*

The hymn, “We Gather Together,” is of Dutch origin, written in 1597 as a celebration of Holland’s religious freedom from Spanish tyranny. Under the rule of the Catholic King Philip II of Spain, Protestants in Holland were not allowed to gather for worship. In 1566, the Dutch Protestants rebelled. As a result, King Philip sent the infamous, Duke of Alba to restore order. During his reign of terror, thousands of people were executed or exiled. Alba didn’t hesitate to massacre entire cities, hanging the bodies in the streets. In 1581, led by the courageous William of Orange, Holland declared its independence from Spain.

This hymn was first published in a 1625 collection by Adrianus Valerius in Haarlem, focusing on folk poems and melodies of the Dutch Wars (1555-1625). Austrian, Edward Kremser discovered it in 1877, translated it into Latin and German, and published it in Vienna. The hymn tune, Kremser, is named in his honor.

“We Gather Together” was introduced to the United States in 1894 when musicologist Theodore Baker discovered it while studying in Leipzig and translated the hymn into English for an anthem entitled “Prayer for Thanksgiving,” published in 1894 by his employer, G. Shirmer, Inc., a major New York publishing house. Baker is the source of the hymn’s traditional Thanksgiving connection in America where it is often sung at family meals and religious services on that day.

According to the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, “We Gather Together” first appeared in an American hymnal in 1903. It continued to grow in popularity and got its big break in 1935 when it was included in the national hymnal of the Methodist-Episcopal Church. Michael Hawn, professor of sacred music at Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology states, “by World War I, we started to see ourselves in this hymn, and the popularity increased during World War II, when “the wicked oppressing” were understood to include Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

This hymn was sung at the Opening of the Funeral Mass for [Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis](#).

Resources: When Sings My Soul, by Robert J. Morgan; Wikipedia; sermonwriter.com; uncdiscipleship.org.



Community Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be hosting its annual Blue Christmas Service on Sunday evening, December 3 at 7:00 pm. This is a service to remember our loved ones that have passed away. This service allows us to mourn our loss, and admit its reality as we move through a sentimental and serious Christmas season. The whole community is invited. Please attend this special service, and invite those that could benefit from this special time together.



**Let's be the church together!!!**

We are offering something for newborn through 12<sup>th</sup> grade EVERY Wednesday night (except for days there is no school or early release).

\*There is a community meal at 5 pm for EVERYONE.

\*After the meal, the JYF (2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>), Chi-Rho (6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>), and CYF (9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>) will have devotion, games, and activities until 7:00 pm.

\*Childcare will be provided for newborn through 1<sup>st</sup> grade from 5:15 to 7:15 too.

Very exciting times!

Contact Pastor Brown if you have questions.

