



Why This Hymn?

they don't. We are stronger when we celebrate- and sing - the diversity among us.

Over the coming weeks, you'll find a short note in the bulletin and in weekly church communication highlighting one of the hymns we're singing—where it comes from, who wrote it, and why it matters. My hope is that by learning the stories behind our favorite hymns, we'll deepen our appreciation for both the familiar and the new, and discover together a shared song of faith that is uniquely ours as a congregation. I hope you'll use this as a conversation starter too, sharing with me and with each other which hymns are your favorites, and why.

This Sunday's Hymns...

Why All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly?

Today we sing *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* (The Book of Praise #534) in response to Christ's invitation to the table. This hymn that celebrates the wide welcome of Christ's table. Written in 1990 by the late poet Sylvia G. Dunstan, a minister in the United Church of Canada, the hymn reflects her gift for connecting scripture with the lived experience of worshiping communities.

The tune we sing it to, *Holy Manna*, is an American shape-note melody from the early 19th century, often sung in lively community gatherings. Pairing a Canadian poet's modern text with an American folk tune gives the hymn a global and timeless quality—a reminder that the church's song is bigger than any one tradition or culture. It's also the perfect union for us—Canadian congregation and American minister.

On this *World Communion Sunday*, as Christians across the globe gather at Christ's table, this hymn invites us to see ourselves as part of that wide, grace-filled feast. It celebrates both the physical bread we share and the spiritual nourishment of being one body in Christ. In singing, we proclaim that this table belongs to Christ—and all are invited.

"All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest."

Yours, occasionally off-key,
Rev. Hannah

Why This Hymn?

One of the beautiful things about being church is that we bring our traditions with us—ways of worship, prayers, and especially songs. At Central, we have a deep and rich musical heritage. No matter our particular faith tradition, we each landed here, at least in part, because we love the music. As your minister, I also carry with me a treasury of hymns and songs from my own background, having grown up in the blue grass mountains of North Carolina. Sometimes our various traditions overlap seamlessly, and sometimes



Come Sing With Us . . .

Add your voice to the chorus of praise that lifts our songs in worship at Central! The choir of Central Presbyterian Church seeks singers with good music reading abilities to join our regular weekly ministry.

We also welcome additional singers to join us temporarily for special events in the Christmas and Easter seasons.

For information, please contact Dr. Marcus Scholtes, at music@cpchamilton.ca

Stewardship Moments: *Inspiring Generosity*

We should give as we would receive, cheerfully, quickly, and without hesitation; for there is no grace in a benefit that sticks to the fingers.

Seneca (54 BC–39 AD), Roman rhetorician and writer