

Together in Worship resourcing website launched

3 December 2020

A curated collection of free online worship resources from diverse Anabaptist Mennonite sources is now available at togetherinworship.net.

Together in Worship (TiW) aims to provide words, music, visual art, and teaching resources from Anabaptist sources that support leaders in communities with diverse worship practices. It is also a space where individuals and communities can submit resources they create.

“The Together in Worship database already showcases creativity happening in Anabaptist worship,” describes Katie Graber, TiW leadership team member and Anabaptist Worship Network co-director. “It is exciting to imagine how much this could grow as writers, visual artists, and musicians share their ideas and resources through this collection.”

The robust database is searchable by keyword and Scripture reference. Filters allow users to sort resources by act of worship, topic, event, season, and more. Scroll through the full text of resources to quickly find what you are looking for and then download a PDF for easy use. “I hope it will become the go-to place for Mennonite worship leaders,” said TiW leadership team member and *leadinginworship* blogger Carol Penner.

The more than 1,500 resources currently cataloged include:

- Resources from Mennonite World Conference
- Prayers and readings by contributors across Canada and the United States that were originally published on MennoMedia bulletin covers
- Video children’s stories
- Seasonal worship series from *Leader* magazine
- Anabaptist poetry
- Historic Anabaptist resources
- Resources from the authors of popular blogs including Carol Penner and Joanna Harader
- Teaching resources about Mennonite worship

Most of the resources catalogued right now are words for worship. However, the vision for the site includes music, video, and visual art. “Together in Worship aims to embrace the unique opportunities of online resourcing, including sharing multimedia sources, resources responsive to current events, material in languages other than English, and supports for contemporary worship,” explains TiW leadership team chair and *Voices Together* worship resources editor Sarah Kathleen Johnson.

The vision for Together in Worship emerged from focus groups led by Johnson where participants consistently requested a free and searchable online source of trusted resources for worship. This grassroots vision became a reality through a bi-national leadership team that includes Sarah Kathleen Johnson (Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre, *Voices Together*), Carol Penner (Conrad Grebel University College), Rebecca Slough (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*), Darryl Neustaedter Barg (Mennonite Church Manitoba, Canadian Mennonite University, *Voices Together*), Jerry Holsopple (Eastern Mennonite University), Katie Graber (Anabaptist Worship Network, *Voices Together*), and Arlyn Friesen Epp and AnaSara Rojas (CommonWord).

The website was built in collaboration with the CommonWord bookstore and resource centre. “Together in Worship beautifully complements the work of CommonWord,” says CommonWord director and TiW leadership team member Arlyn Friesen Epp. “It focuses creative energy in the gathering and sharing of worship resources that reflect the growing diversity of voices and gifts within our congregations both in the US and in Canada.”

Ways you can connect with Together in Worship:

- Explore [Together in Worship](#) when planning worship
- Follow Together in Worship on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for posts that highlight timely resources
- Add a link to Together in Worship to your church website
- Volunteer to curate resources or, if you are a student, complete an online Supervised Experience in Ministry as a resource curator
- Submit resources for possible inclusion
- Donate to support the site financially
- Pray for the ministry of Together in Worship

The project has been funded entirely through grants, including a 2019 Teacher-Scholar Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship received by Carol Penner, and a Bequest Earnings Disbursement Fund grant from Shantz Mennonite Church.

A 2021 Teacher-Scholar Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship received by Rebecca Slough and Jerry Holsopple will support the development of visual art resources for an intercultural church. “As an artist, I hope Together in Worship resources embodied worship where the visual arts connect with what we hear and sing, where mystery is embraced, and creativity is nurtured,” says TiW leadership team member Jerry Holsopple. “The visioning process for this website has been rich, but I am sure we have only scratched the surface of the creative worship resources yet to come from the Anabaptist faith community.”

Contact Together in Worship: togetherinworshipnet@gmail.com

The logo consists of a stylized circular emblem with three curved, overlapping shapes in red, yellow, and blue, resembling a flame or a wave. To the right of the emblem is the text "Together in Worship" in a large, black, sans-serif font.

Together in Worship

Together in Worship logo and wordmark.



Together in Worship leadership team (from top left): Jerry Holsopple, Darryl Neustaedter Barg, Rebecca Slough, Katie Graber, Sarah Kathleen Johnson, Carol Penner, Arlyn Friesen Epp, AnaSara Rojas.