

Liturgy for Moravian Archives Sunday

Heavenly Father, we are a community who remembers your love for us, made manifest in each generation by your works and wonders.

We see Your love in acts of grace and mercy, in the boldness of your prophets and the humility of your saints.

The stories of faith come down to us from those who have gone before.

We celebrate the gift of your great and abiding love for us.

God of the ages, history's Maker,
planning our pathway, holding us fast,
shaping in mercy all that concerns us:
Father, we praise you, Lord of the past!

Words: Margaret Clarkson © 1982, 1987 Hope Publishing Company
Tune: Bunessan ("Morning Has Broken")

PLEASE NOTE: Local congregations that use this liturgy must report the use of Margaret Clarkson's hymn *God of the Ages* to either CCLI or OneLicense. Use in a webcast of any sort requires an additional streaming license. If your congregation does not have either license, please use the TEXT ONLY version and do not print this version with the Clarkson hymn.

God of the Ages:
OneLicense Song #24795
CCLI Song #27082

Lord Jesus Christ, our hearts are filled with the stories of your faithfulness, of your crucifixion, and resurrection. We hear of the faith of the apostles, of Jan Hus, of Comenius, of Zinzendorf.

We hear of the faith of missionaries and pioneers who proclaimed your word to the ends of the earth, who built communities of faith and witness.

Our grandmothers and grandfathers heard the stories of faith from those who went before them, and were inspired to build this space for worship. They passed the stories of faith, hope, and love on to us.

Their stories inspire us to faithful living today, and compel us to share the message of faith with our neighbors and children today.

God of this morning, gladly your children
worship before you, trustingly bow;
teach us to know you always among us,
quietly sovereign-- Lord of our now.

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Holy Spirit, work in our lives to make us aware of the story of faith going on around us each day. Give us eyes that can see acts of mercy and love, ears that can hear words of comfort, mouths that can speak words of caring, feet that can walk alongside of others.

***Help us to see your hand in the daily events of our lives.
Help us to understand the ways you create grace and hope out of moments that seem ordinary and hard.***

Make us aware of our responsibility to pass that witness on, to tell the stories of inspiration so that future generations will know of Your love.

So that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Lord of past ages, Lord of this morning,
Lord of the future, help us, we pray:
teach us to trust you, love you, obey you,
crown you each moment, Lord of today!

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Father, Son and Holy Spirit, abide in us and our efforts to remember and share your witness through our Moravian stories to the world.

Bless those who gather and care for those stories of your Love and the actions that love has inspired in us.

In this hour we ask a special blessing upon those who create and gather and collect those stories in our congregations; those who administer and guide the work of our Moravian Archives; and all who support our Archives with special gifts of volunteer time, financial support and items of material remembrance.

Strengthen and encourage us all in our work in sharing your Good News through our lives of ongoing witness.

To you be the Glory. Amen.

Appreciation is expressed to the Reverend John Jackman of the Trinity Congregation for preparing this liturgy.