

Bible/Hymn Study #18

ELW #650 In Christ There Is No East or West/Galatians 3:19-29

Galatians 3:19-29

New Revised Standard Version

¹⁹Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring would come to whom the promise had been made; and it was ordained through angels by a mediator. ²⁰Now a mediator involves more than one party; but God is one.

²¹Is the law then opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law. ²²But the scripture has imprisoned all things under the power of sin, so that what was promised through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Which human barriers are hardest for you personally to transcend (social, racial, sexual, and so forth)? Do you give preference to certain types of Christians? Do I prejudge certain types?
- What might you do this week to overcome one of your prejudgments?
- Find out more about suffering Christians in another part of the world. Make them a special focus for your prayer support this week.
- Sometime this week, listen to this anthem arrangement of the hymn:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbPgCYB972o>

In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;

but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, each corresponding to a line of the four-part setting.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

Original text from *Bees in Amber*:

NO EAST OR WEST

In Christ there is no East or West, In Him no South or North,
But one great Fellowship of Love Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere Their high communion find.
His service is the golden cord Close-binding all mankind.

Join hands then, Brothers of the Faith, Whatever your race may be!--
Who serves my Father as a son Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West, In Him meet South and North,
All Christly souls are one in Him, Throughout the whole wide earth.