

Dialogue for Beginning on a New Path

Single Voice (SV)

Many Voices (MV)

SV Precious God, every day you set us in reality. We see so many things, yet pretend we do not see.

MV Guide us to see all people, even when they are different from us.

SV We live our lives of survival, self-preservation, and hard work. We grow tired.

MV Direct our living so that we might live for you first, and for your will and purpose.

SV In our churches we seek refuge from our toils. We seek comfort, reassurance, and affirmation. We want to be at peace.

MV Stretch us when we feel uncomfortable or challenged when people come to worship with us who are not like us. Guide us in our journey to grow each day in our understanding of ourselves, of others, and the messages that shape us.

SV If we have failed in the past to see all people as your children and our equal sisters and brothers in you, help us to see that this can be a new beginning.

MV Grant us the gift of your courage that we might confront and overcome our fears and our prejudices. As Jesus died for us, let us die a little each day, to ourselves, that we may know new life in you and with one another.

SV Without pain there is no reconciliation, for we live in a world of sin.

MV May we live in your grace, knowing that it may take discomfort, pain, sacrifice, repentance, forgiveness, and healing. Guide us to acknowledge ugliness within us and strengthen us to trust your grace to live as your redeemed children in one church, by one faith and in one Baptism.

SV The old satanic foe of racism is still woven into the fabric of our lives.

MV Although, without you, we are not equal to this foe, through your grace, empower us to overcome the forces that break community.

PRAYERS

SV You have created us as your own family. You have called us together.
The time is now for new beginnings.

MV May we do the work we must do in your church and world, while it is still day, before it is too late. May we never tire, nor turn our back, nor believe our work is ever done. For each day we must begin anew.

We have tried, O God, to make an offering to you. Walk beside us in our journeying and leave us not alone even to the devices of our minds and spirits, but be in us and about us forever and ever. Brood over us, cleansing and renewing and restoring, to the end that we may face the responsibilities that await us beyond this moment, with strength, with confidence, and with courage. **Amen**