

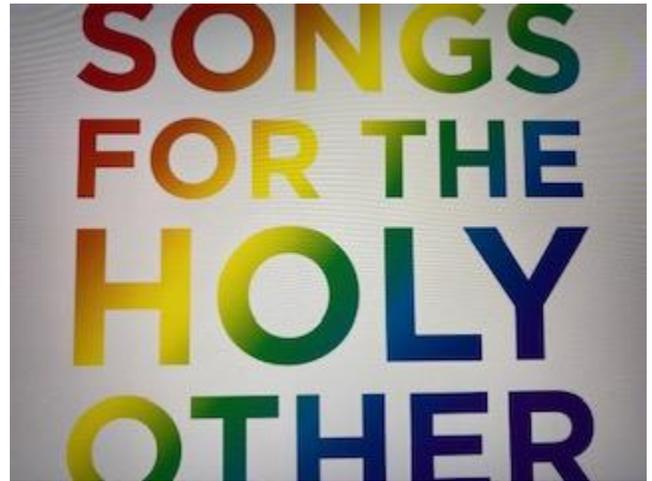
1/29/21

Our society almost seems to delight in building barriers – –
OUT and IN US and THEM NORMAL and OTHER

In contrast, how WONDERFUL it is that at NMCC we are celebrating our third anniversary of being an ONA congregation! We have committed ourselves to attempt to REMOVE barriers and walls separating people, affirming that every single person – BARRING NONE! – is a beloved child of God, welcome and safe within our community.

Everyone needs to feel unconditional love. It is not enough to hear it preached or to read about it you have to FEEL that love for it to be real! So, in addition to welcoming words and warm hugs, open hearts and minds can be felt in the MUSIC which we sing as well.

It was a JOY recently to discover a new resource called “Songs for the Holy Other” – hymns BY, FOR or ABOUT the LGBTQIA2S+ community, who continue to be “othered” in so many ways in their lives. This collection of songs is a “self-conscious claiming of ‘otherness’ as HOLY and BELOVED of God.”



The very first hymn in the book, written by Wesley King, has a text that speaks to ALL of us who are seeking the love of God within our lives. Read the words as a prayer for acceptance of your own self – as well as for the “selves” of others... or perhaps sing them to yourself using the tune for “Love Divine All Loves Excelling” or “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.”)

God’s unconditional love comes shining through!

A HYMN FOR SELF - ACCEPTANCE

When you feel change might be hopeless, when you’ve given up on God
When you feel you’re not worth saving, that your being-ness is flawed.
When your prayers all seem unanswered, not a sound from the Divine,
Maybe you have been mistaken... God is sending you a sign.

Years and years, begging for turning into something that you’re not
The wrong prayer you have been praying. You are not God’s afterthought.
You are made as God intended. You are perfect – flawless too!

May each one of you remember, nothing severs God from you.

You are worth more than you realize. You are wonderfully made
In the image of our Mother, Father, Parent, all the same.
Don't let doctrines of our churches use the Word to misconstrue,
For it's written in the scriptures, surely God delights in you!

A Hymn for Self-Acceptance

Isley King

BEACH SPRING
B.F. White, lyrics. Ronald A. Nelson

1. When you feel change might be hope - less, when you've giv - en up on God,
2. Years and years, beg - ging for turn - ing in - to some - thing that you're not.
3. You are worth more than you real - ize. You are won - der - ful - ly made

when you feel you're not worth sav - ing, that your be - ing - ness is flawed.
The wrong prayer you have been pray - ing. You are not God's af - ter - thought,
in the im - age of our Mo - ther, Fa - ther, Pa - rent, all the same.