

# Kindred, Now We Meet to Worship

A hymn for online worship during this pandemic.



1. Kin - dred, now we meet to wor - ship, reach - ing out through screen and phone.  
2. Friends, be gen - tle with each o - ther, there's so much we're go - ing through.  
3. Sib - lings, share a song of glad - ness, Prais - ing God and spread - ing cheer,

5



Though we dwell in i - so - la - tion, we know we are not a - lone.  
May this be a time for heal - ing, hold - ing space for griev - ing too.  
so that in these days of sad - ness, we won't be con - sumed by fear.

9



Wor - ship - ping be - yond our build - ing, far a - part, yet face to face,  
Bo - dies, minds, and hearts are wea - ry, an - guish fills the ach - ing soul,  
In this time of mass con - fus - ion, sick - ness, loss, and o - ver - whelm,

13



We're u - ni - ted as one Bo - dy, bound by Christ's re - deem - ing grace.  
but by God's un - fail - ing mer - cy, bro - ken hearts will be made whole.  
let's en - cour - age one a - no - ther, hands not joined, but hearts are held.

Words: Thommy Snell FirstUMusic@gmail.com

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827

HYMN TO JOY

8.7.8.7 D

## PERFORMANCE SUGGESTIONS:

Keep it buoyant, this is not a dirge. The first and third verses are joyful; the second verse is more tender.

Consider reflecting this in your registraion/accompaniment choices.

## NOTES

After my Senior Minister informed me we'd be pivoting to online-only worship, I found myself thinking about how to best utilize hymnody in this new format. I programmed many our most familiar and beloved hymns that would inspire congregants to sing along at home, but none truly captured what I was feeling. I felt the need to write a new hymn text reflecting the present moment, reinforcing the validity of this way of worshipping together, the importance of staying connected (our distancing is physical, not social or spiritual!), and acknowledging the range of emotions that we are feeling, including mourning (we mourn the loss of opportunity, of income, of human touch, and most of all, the loss of lives).

On our first Sunday of online worship, churches sang it in California, Colorado, Delaware, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and perhaps elsewhere. Some sang it as a congregational hymn, others as a solo or choral anthem. This text was written with the tune HOLY MANNA in mind, but may also be sung to other well-known 8.7.8.7. D tunes, such as HYFRYDOL, IN BABILONE, or HYMN TO JOY, if your congregation knows them better. *If you find it useful and meaningful, please feel free to use in in any way that you would find useful; I only ask for attribution. You may also alter the text as you see fit, but please reflect that in your attribution. If you use this text, I would appreciate an email (FirstUMusic@gmail.com), but I recognize that we are all working overtime to shepherd our flocks, so no worries if you forget.*