

To: Ministers and Choir Directors in The United Church of Canada
From: Revs. Dr. Paul Douglas Walfall and Dr. Bob Filler
Subject: **Anti-Racism Song for Emancipation Sunday (August 7) 2022**
Date: February 22, 2022

Dear colleagues and friends,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus, whose disciples we seek to be.

As you may know The United Church of Canada has formally stated that it is seeking to become an anti-racist denomination. Also, at the opening session of the 44th General Council on February 13, 2022, it was agreed that the first Sunday in August each year would be designated as Emancipation Sunday in The United Church of Canada.

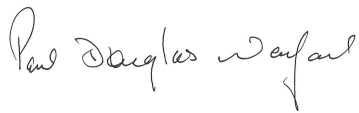
Paul Douglas Walfall, in collaboration with musician Roger Gittens (from Barbados) has written a song about becoming anti-racist. Our hope is to have a national virtual choir present this song on Sunday, August 7, 2022. It is also our hope that choirs across the country would present this song in their worship services on that Sunday.

We write therefore to invite choir conductors or their representatives to a meeting on Sunday, March 20, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. (Mountain time). It is our hope that all choir conductors will be present. Please email Paul (revpaul@shaw.ca) or Bob (revbob@trinitypg.ca) if you are interested to participate. The zoom meeting invitation will be sent you once we have received your response.

For your information we have attached the lyrics of the song to this correspondence.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With every prayerful good wish,



Paul Douglas Walfall



Bob Filler

In God's Big Family.

Do you love the Lord
Can you hear God's voice
Do you call God everyday
When the shadows fall
Do you say a prayer
Can you hear the Spirit say
No matter where you come from
No matter where you stand
Jesus loves us all
Every person cis-, trans-

**Race should not divide us
In God's family
Causing us to treat
Each other differently.
Race should not divide us
If we believe
We are all the same
In God's big family**

When you look at me
Tell me what you see?
Just the colour of my skin?
I'm much more than that
I am just like you
Like your sibling and your friend
We're all made in God's Image
Crafted by God's great hand
And Jesus loves us all
Every person cis-, trans-

In the past we see
How racism caused
Pain to all humanity
Native lands were stolen
And Africans
Were forced into slavery
Asians voices ignored
No rights on which to stand
Though Jesus loves us all
Every person cis-, trans-

It is not enough to say
I'm not racist here
For it needs a lot of work
Stopping short we fail
Be intentional
Go to God for God's support
Racism must be torn down.
Holy Spirit says we can
Jesus loves us all
Every person cis-, trans-

Words by Paul Walfall and Roger Gittens
Music by Roger Gittens

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