May a Song Remain Among Us

*It Takes a Village*

The oneness and connectivity of all has become intensely known during the present pandemic. If it was not understood before, humans are quickly learning that our collective actions affect the whole. Peoples across the globe have known this for ages. African, Native American and many other cultures include this understanding in their proverbs, and this wisdom is encapsulated in the phrase: “It takes a village.”

The Pullen Children’s, Youth and Chancel Choirs expressed this idea last May as they joined other local choirs to sing “In Praise of the Village” during “A Concert for a Cause” held at Kirk of Kildaire, Presbyterian, in Cary. The piece celebrates humanity by repeating the Kijita word for “baby” or “child” (“Omwana”), and it exclaims that everyone has responsibility to care for others. Two performances of the piece and lyrics are below. As you view or listen, give thanks for caregivers, and consider ways you can be of assistance to someone else in your village (remembering that physical distancing continues to be an important means of caring for others).

Performance Links:

- Video of Pullen Choirs from “A Concert for a Cause”
  [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ysEerOEz596F4ask3pNcNt9cwxxS_zUv](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ysEerOEz596F4ask3pNcNt9cwxxS_zUv)

- Audio from a Multi-Cultural “Peace Concert”
  [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Au2cUEkNUh6suUpVec3XME7AQpO91kh2](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Au2cUEkNUh6suUpVec3XME7AQpO91kh2)

Lyrics: “In Praise of the Village”

Omwana ni wa bhone.
(Kijita proverb meaning: Care for each other is responsibility of the community.)

O children, sing out!
Sing it strong in praise of the village where all belong!
O children, sing out!
Sing it clear: "Together we nurture all children here!"

O families, sing out!
Sing it strong in praise of the village where all belong!
O families, sing out!
Sing it clear: "Together we cherish all families here!"

It takes a village to raise all children.
It takes a village as families grow.
Many villages make a nation.
Many nations make a global home!
O nations, sing out!
Sing it strong in praise of the village where all belong!
O nations, sing out!
Sing it clear: "Together we welcome all nations here!

Whether near or far apart, may a song remain!

*Larry E. Schultz, Minster of Music*