

## FAITH UNTO UNITY

Creator God, we come to you needing to be reminded that your creative power did not flag after the stars were set in place or with the resurrection of your Son.

We praise you that you continued to create in the early church and that it was good. We thank you that you, great artist on this canvas of earth, created a vision in the mind of Thomas Campbell, a vision of a church not broken apart by creeds and communion tokens but held together by the bonds of love and unity.

Revive us, O God, in our service to you.

Creator God, creating still, revive us with the memory of leaders past:

of Jose Maria Jesus Carvajal,

whose exposure to your Word through Alexander Campbell led him to return to Mexico to advocate for political freedom;

of the other Alexander Campbell,

the former slave who started our church in Midway, Kentucky, in 1834;

of Jeu Hawk,

who ministered to the Chinese community in Portland in 1892 and inspired the expansion of our Chinese mission to San Francisco;

of Barton Stone,

who upheld Christian unity as our utmost goal.

You created these leaders and you created us with tangible, immediate, and critical purpose. Bind us anew to our heritage and purpose.

You have blessed us with powerful and creative models of ministry, yet we have chosen to turn inward, to refuse help from brothers and sisters, to refuse in turn to help them, to stare across divides we have made, creating nothing that honors you.

Help us to find strength to reach out to one another, across the distrust, across the hurt that has been inflicted upon us and that we inflict on one another.

Let us know that you stand with us when we stand together.

Help us to realize your will for us in the love of our brothers and sisters.

In your unifying and creative name we pray. Amen.

*SANDHYA R. JHA*

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