

# Welcome to Gather Together!

These eight intergenerational events are designed for church communities of all shapes and sizes. Whether you've been using *All Creation Sings* since its release in 2020 or are new to its purple-covered pages, these events help you offer intergenerational experiences for participants of all ages to learn more about worship, faith practices, and each other. You can schedule the number and type of events that best fit your church's faith formation calendar, as well as current events and ministry needs. Invite church musicians and worship planners into Gather Together planning so events can connect with how they are using *All Creation Sings* in worship.

To get started, read about Gather Together on these two pages. Then review the chart showing event titles and activity descriptions. Finally, review the events themselves to choose the ones that are the best fit for your setting. The Kickoff event starting on page 11 is a great way to begin.

## Introducing Gather Together

**What are the Gather Together events?** Each event is an intergenerational experience that can span one to two hours, depending on whether you serve food and/or choose one or more of the additional activities. Events use *All Creation Sings* as a primary resource, so plan to provide a copy for each participant or pair of participants.

**Who participates?** Gather Together builds community by inviting people of all ages to gather, learn, worship, and enjoy fellowship together. Activities are designed for participation by children, youth, and adults so that everyone is welcome. When planning for the volunteers who help prepare for, lead, and support the event, you can recruit from all ages as well.

**When can events be planned?** Choose the events that best fit your community's interests, and then decide when to hold them. You could schedule an event for a Sunday afternoon after worship, a midweek evening, or another time that works best for your context. If your church community experiences a traumatic event, the God Is Here event that starts on page 119 could be planned soon afterward. You could schedule the Climate Justice and Creation Care events around the Feast of St. Francis (October 4), Earth Day (April 22), or another day of significance that is connected to these themes.

**Where can the events be held?** You'll need a space for your large group to gather and sit together at tables. Arrange for a variety of seating options to meet diverse needs and comfort preferences, such as chairs with firm backs, softer chairs, chairs with and without arms to accommodate people of many sizes, etc. Several events also feature outdoor activities, stations that meet in smaller areas, and suggestions for time in the worship space. If you're serving food, you'll also need a place to prepare snacks or meals and eat together.

**What are the costs?** You may choose to charge a per-person or per-household rate based on cost estimates for food and materials. Alternately, you could cover any costs with a specific faith formation ministry budget.