

2023



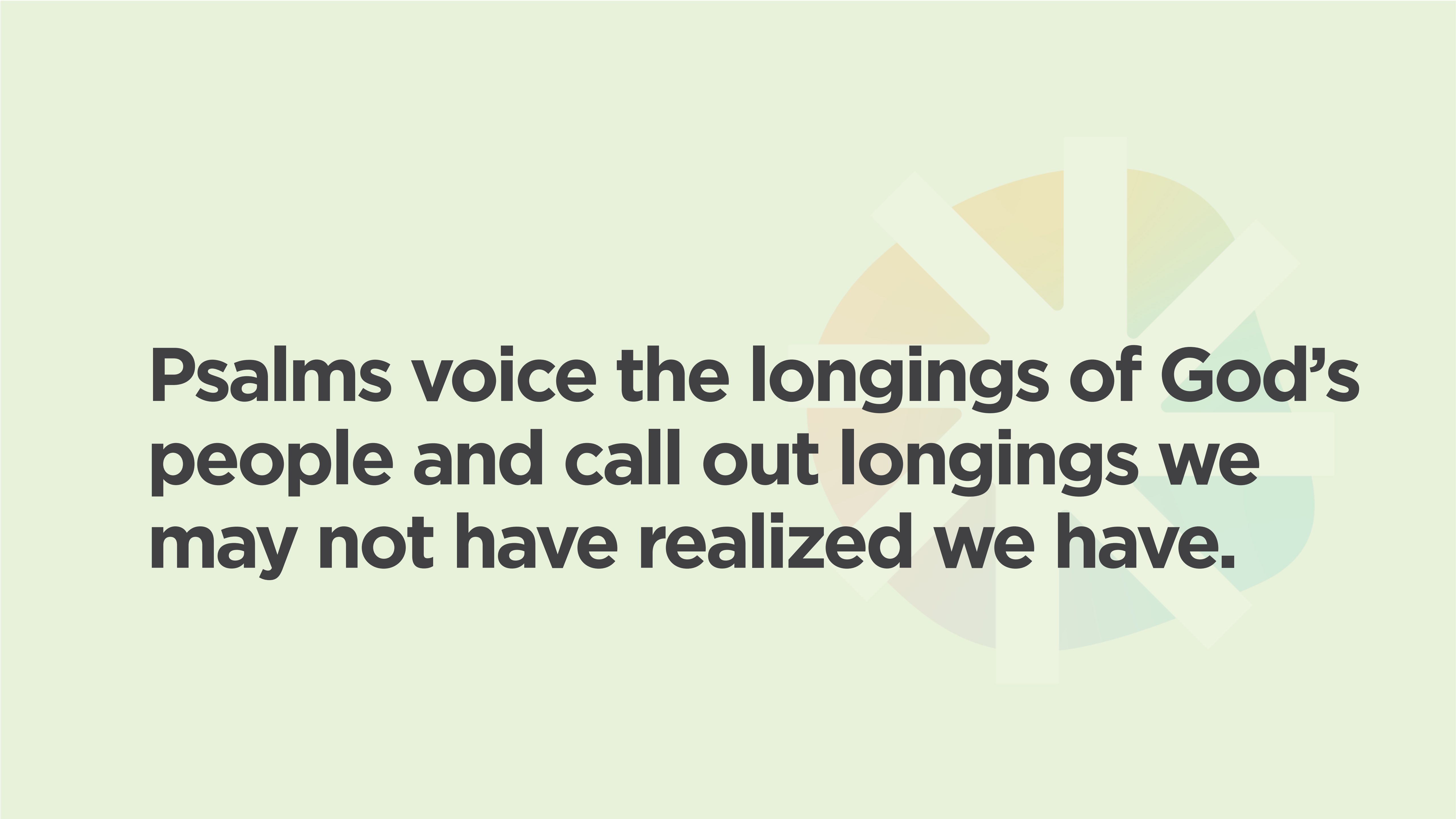
Ordinary Time

Psalm 133



Vs 1:

*“How good and how pleasant it is when
God’s people dwell together in unity!”*



Psalms voice the longings of God's people and call out longings we may not have realized we have.



What feels unfamiliar in this song?

Ancient Jewish metaphors

*“It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes”*

*“It is like the early rain of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.”*

Specific historical context

to dwell together

is a legal term for

co-owning land or

joint tenancy of an undivided land





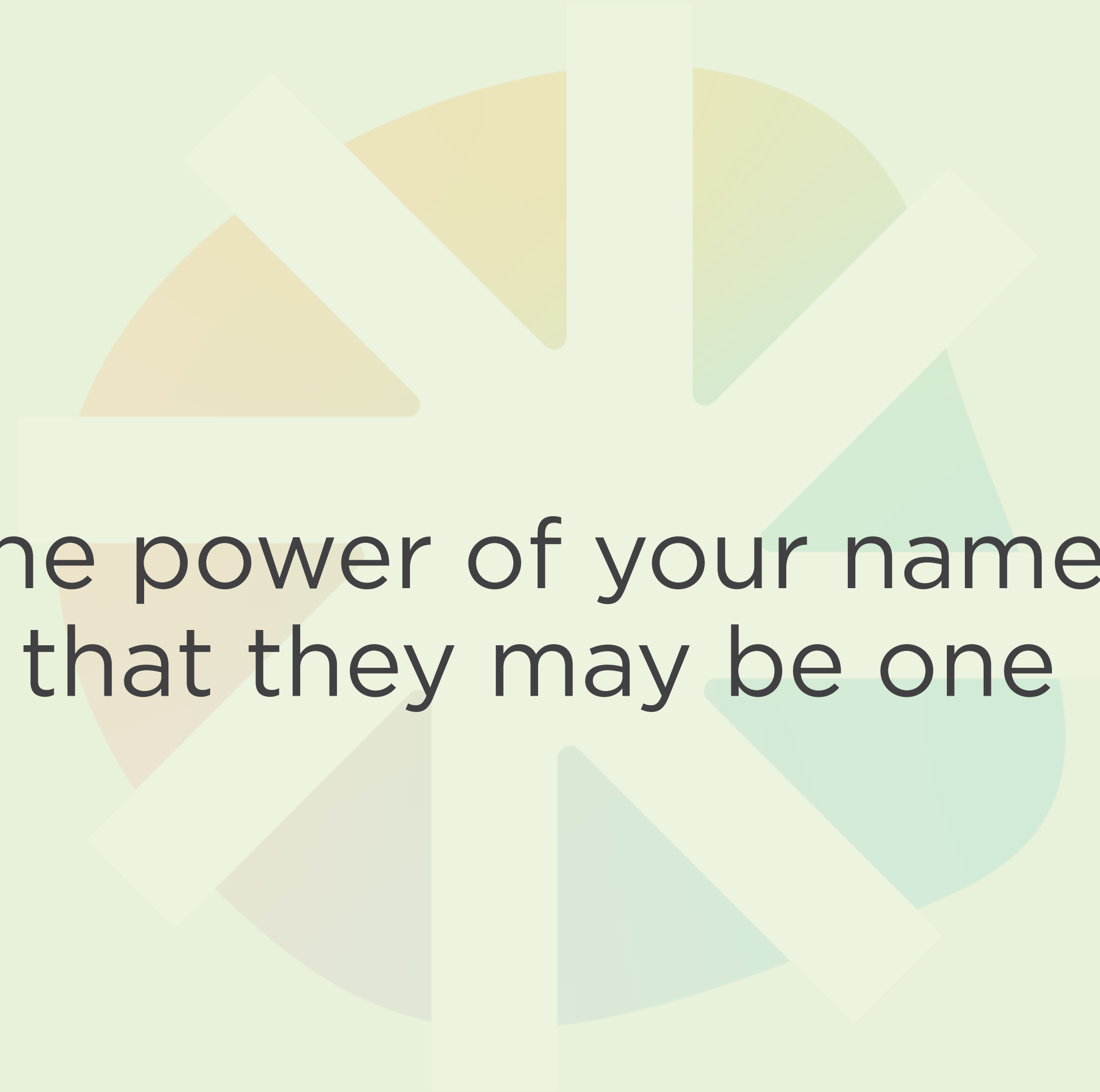
**“Singing this song” as followers
of Jesus**

Jesus

- *sang this Psalm*
- *re-words the song for the church*
- *gives unity a new purpose—witness*

John 17

“Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one”



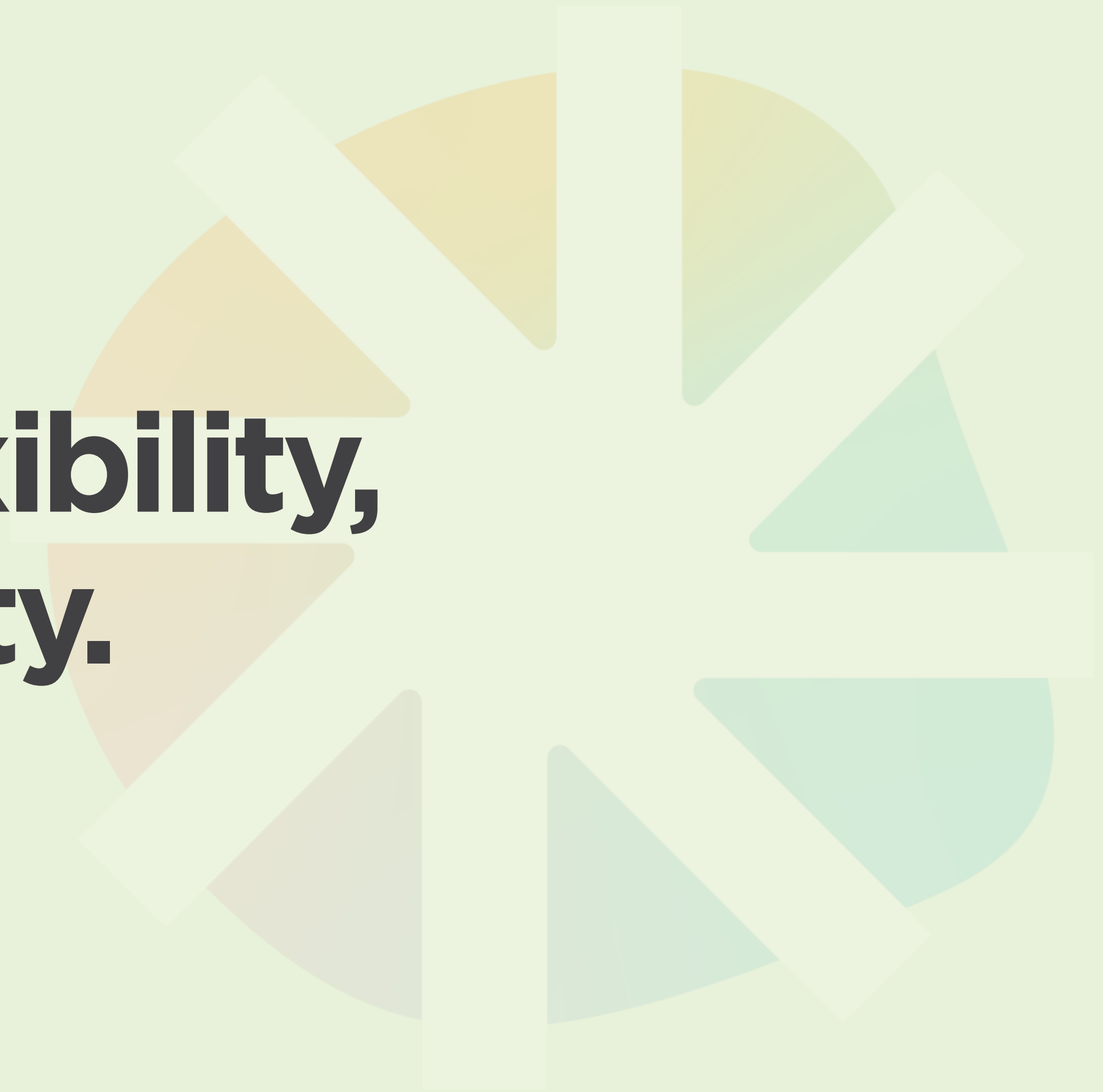
John 17

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will follow me when they hear my follower’s message, that all of them may be one. Father, just as you are in me and I am in you...I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you love me.”



Unity with potential adversaries
is a miracle in a world of hostility

**Unity requires flexibility,
not rigid uniformity.**



3rd Way

- committing to a *shared posture*, rather than insisting on a *shared position* (Brad Melle)
- being *like-hearted*, even when we are not *like-minded* (Chris Smith)

How good and joyful it is when God's people dwell together in unity.

It's like the sound of a voice that starts to sing descending on a room full of strangers, falling on a room, on swaying cross-legged listeners, drifting out the window to the listeners outside, listening in the darkness, full of stars.

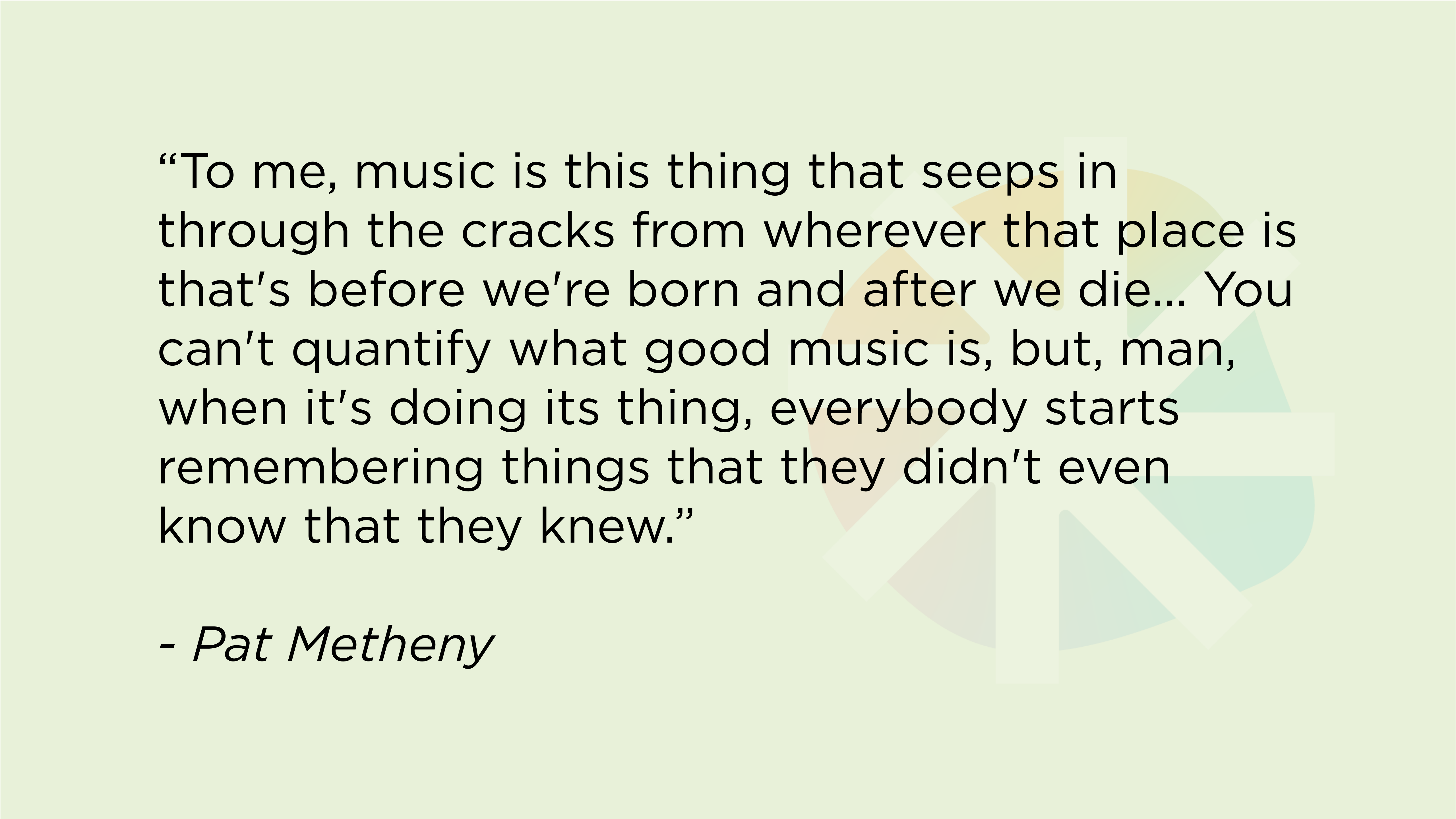
It is like the heavy rain of November descending on Kelowna now.

Where we dwell together, God's provision is present - the unity that is, the unity that will be.

Can we be the kind of community that dwells together so well that we are ready and able to respond to crises in ways that bring everyone along? How do we move from the “each person looks after their own needs” way of life—to a way of life that dwells deeply together?



Practicing unity: *singing together*



“To me, music is this thing that seeps in through the cracks from wherever that place is that’s before we’re born and after we die... You can’t quantify what good music is, but, man, when it’s doing its thing, everybody starts remembering things that they didn’t even know that they knew.”

- *Pat Metheny*

“String-quartetting” is a way of communicating, living, relating. You get to know your fellow musician-listeners’ quirks very deeply...their weaknesses, their strengths, their humour...but you also rely on them deeply. So during a performance, your aim is not to judge but to listen well to the vibrations between your instruments and adjust accordingly to make it sound good. Without resonance, there is no connection. And resonance is sometimes profoundly uncomfortable.

Practicing unity:
actually singing together

