



Monday Morning Connection  
Monday, October 16, 2017

*Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants. Isaiah 42:10*

Third Church has just concluded a very special 10 days with five Kenyan visitors from our partner church, the Kihumo Parish in Nairobi – Pastor Thairu and elders Mary, Sarah, Donald, and James. Their infectious joy, warm hearts, desire to experience our ministry context, and love for God’s mission in the world renewed my soul.

So did their singing. They visited Dining Room Ministry, and as they prepared the meal in the church kitchen, they broke out into songs of praise, as naturally as they breathed. When we gathered over a meal, they sang. When our friends visited a third grade classroom at School #3, they sang a song for the children. They sang for us in worship, and even got us to move!

And most memorably, we took our five visitors to see the magnificent and mighty Niagara Falls, including a ride on the *Maid of the Mist*. And as they experienced the fullness of God’s created wonder, they spontaneously and unabashedly broke into song yet again. Not just any song, but in their native Kiswahili, with pink rain ponchos as choir robes, they and the rushing water sang and bore witness together with one voice:

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made. I see the stars. I hear the rolling thunder. Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee. How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee. How great thou art! How great thou art!*

In that moment, the biblical image of all creation singing and praising God together came to life. All I can say is, “What a great and glorious gift!”

*Creator God, even as the complexities of our lives distract us from your wonders, help us to hear and sing, as one hymn says, “the real, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.” We pray in the name of the One who makes all things new, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.*

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