

Antiphonal Reading

Proud by Amanda Udis-Kessler

Today, Pride Day, we affirm with joy that we are proud.

We are proud to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and questioning.

We are proud to have survived and thrived despite challenges to our dignity, well-being, and sometimes even our lives.

We are proud to be heterosexual and cisgender allies.

We are proud to live and work in solidarity with our LGBTQ friends and family.

Together, we build the Beloved Community.

We and those we love have been judged, mistreated, assaulted

But we are here and we are proud.

We and those we love have been stereotyped and have faced discrimination

But we are here and we are proud.

We have seen those we love beaten to death and gunned down

But we are here and we are proud.

We are together, and we are proud.

**All: And together, we build the Beloved Community.
Watch as it grows among us even now.**

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Unison Closing

181 from *Lifting Our Voices*, by Judith Meyer

This is what we do with our faith:

Live in this world knowing that we will lose each other;

loving despite the hard bargain it demands of us,

doing what we can so that truth may be safely lived,

measuring our faith by the difference we have made,

building up faith communities to continue after we are gone.

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