

**We Are a People
on a Journey
FOREVER FORWARD**

Congregational Hymn

Words and Music
Larry E. Schultz

LarryESchultz.com

This hymn is inspired by the history, worship and ministry of Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, and is based on the church's Covenant.

The tune is offered in a festive accompaniment setting for organ, brass quintet, timpani, choral descant and handbell obbligato.

The work expresses a progressive faith journey and was commissioned in celebration of the congregation's 75th Anniversary.

**We are a people on a journey,
open to all and closed to none,
led by the love we've known together,
warmly embracing everyone.
On the path of faith progressing,
firmly steadfast, boldly free,
we will move forever forward
growing in diversity.**

**Open to all new light before us,
guiding beyond what we can see,
trusting a faith informed by reason,
challenged within community,
we'll explore vast ways of wisdom,
search for meaning all around
as we move forever forward
seeking truth wherever found.**

**When on our journey we encounter
strangers ignored or friends in need,
nature neglected, life endangered,
victims oppressed by power and greed,
we will take a stand for justice;
we will join our hands for peace;
then we'll move forever forward
bearing hope that fear may cease.**

**Come, lift your voice in celebration;
join the procession through the world:
growing, exploring, marching, singing,
banners of love for all unfurled!
Living justly, serving kindly,
walking humbly through our days,
let us move forever forward
raising songs of joy and praise!**

-Larry E. Schultz

We Are a People on a Journey

1. We are a peo - ple on a jour - ney, o - pen to all and
2. O - pen to all new light be - fore us, guid - ing be - yond what
3. When on our jour - ney we en - coun - ter stran - gers ig - nored or
4. Come, lift your voice in cel - e - bra - tion; join the pro - ces - sion

closed to none, led by the love we've known to - geth - er,
we can see, trust - ing a faith in - formed by rea - son,
friends in need, na - ture ne - glect - ed, life en - dan - gered,
through the world: grow - ing, ex - plor - ing, march - ing, sing - ing,

warm - ly em - brac - ing ev - ery - one. On the path of
chal - lenged with - in com - mu - ni - ty, we'll ex - plore vast
vic - tims op - pressed by power and greed, we will take a
ban - ners of love for all un - furled! Liv - ing just - ly,

The image shows a musical score for the song 'We Are a People on a Journey'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. A large diagonal watermark 'PREVIEW COPY - DO NOT REPRODUCE' is overlaid across the middle of the page, with the website 'www.LarryESchultz.com' written below it.

Words and Music: Larry E. Schultz

FOREVER FORWARD

Irregular

Words and Music © 2018 Larry E. Schultz. All rights reserved.

Permission is granted to reproduce only as licensed.

LarryESchultz.com

faith pro - gress - ing, firm - ly stead - fast, bold - ly free,
 ways of wis - dom, search for mean - ing all a - round
 stand for jus - tice; we will join our hands for peace;
 serv - ing kind - ly, walk - ing hum - bly through our days,

we will move for - ev - er for - ward grow - ing in di -
 as we move for - ev - er for - ward seek - ing truth wher -
 then we'll move for - ev - er for - ward bear - ing hope that
 let us move for ev - er for - ward rais - ing songs of

1, 2, 3. 4.

ver - si - ty, grow - ing in di - ver - si - ty.
 ev - er found, seek - ing truth wher - ev - er found.
 fear may cease, bear - ing hope that fear may cease. praise!
 joy and praise, rais - ing songs of joy and

We Are a People on a Journey

Choral Descant for Stanza 4

Sopranos & Tenors

4. Come, lift your voice in cel - e - bra - tion; join the pro - ces - sion through the world:
grow - ing, ex - plor - ing, march - ing, sing - ing, ban - ners of love for all un - furled!
Liv - ing just - ly, serv - ing kind - ly, walk - ing hum - bly through our days,
let us move for - ev - er for - ward rais - ing songs of joy and praise,
rais - ing songs of joy and praise! (joy and praise!)

Words and Music: Larry E. Schultz

FOREVER FORWARD
Irregular