

Mission Moment

September 22, 2019

“From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.” – Psalm 113:3

Matthias Claudius, a German poet and journalist of the 18th century, wrote the lyrics for “All Good Gifts” (“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”), which thanks God for all creation, especially seedtime and harvest.

His words seem a fitting tribute to Rural Life Sunday.

This special Sunday calls on us to celebrate the rural heritage of The United Methodist Church; to recognize the ongoing difficulties faced in many rural areas of our nation and the world today; to affirm the mutual dependence of rural and urban communities; and through offerings strengthen the outreach and witness of congregations in towns and rural areas.

Whether we live in the biggest cities or the tiniest villages, we depend on farmers to provide the food we need to nourish our bodies. Thanks to their commitment and labor, we enjoy God’s gifts that bring us life, health and food.

Rural Life Sunday encourages congregations to celebrate the rural heritage of The United Methodist Church, to support those who work with and on the land by raising food and fiber, and to assist them through the ongoing issues occurring in rural areas today.

From the rising of the sun to its setting, we praise God’s name. As we observe Rural Life Sunday, may we seek ways to sustain rural congregations of all sizes whose outreach remains so vital to us.