# Building a World Where Everyone Belongs: Lynda’s Story | Devotion

Romans 12:4–6*a*

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us….

## Sing

“We Are One,” VU 402
“In Christ There Is No East or West,” VU 606
“Blest Be the Tie That Binds,” VU 602

## Reflect

* How do the ways we think and believe affect what we do?
* Who do we welcome, and who do we find challenging to welcome?
* What role does fear play in judgment and exclusion?

## Pray

### At a Gathering

For everyone present today, we give you thanks, gracious God. For the scope of talent and ability here, we are grateful. We are blessed to have this community. As we gather, make us mindful of those outside these walls. Draw our awareness to those who confront barriers of all kinds. Encourage us to find ways to remove obstacles to the grace and belonging we witness in Jesus. We’re here to make a difference, to make your mission our life’s work. May it be so. Amen.

### For Personal Devotion

Remove my fear of vulnerability, O Great One.
Slow down my judgment.
Erase my urge to label and limit.
Embed your Spirit into the heart of my fear
so that uniqueness excites me,
so that diversity enthralls me,
so that welcome guides me.
Let me be changed. Strengthened.
Blessed to be a blessing. Amen.