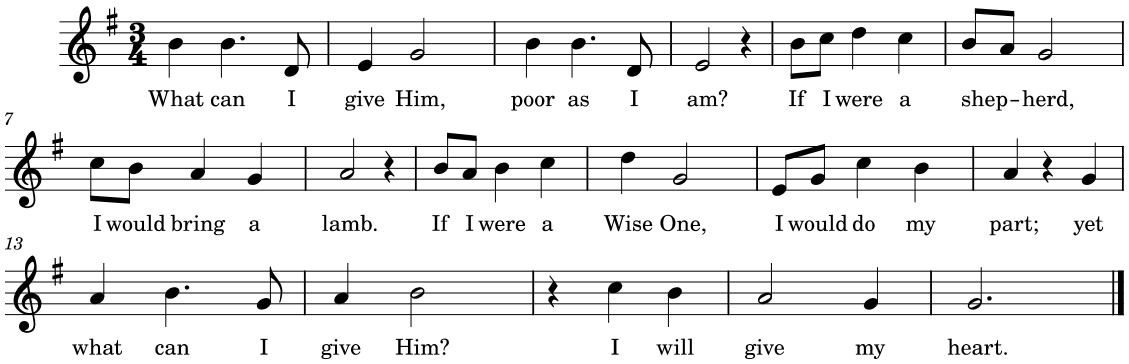
Westminster
Presbyterian Church
353 E. Pine St., Wooster, OH 44691
330-263-2398 / wpcwooster@gmail.com

Third Sunday in Advent
December 10, 2023

Welcome and Announcements — **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Let us open our hearts and minds to the rhythm of the gathering music as it centers us in God's presence for worship.

Advent Prelude — **"What Can I Give Him"** — ***Jubilate Music Group***



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Becoming Present — **An Advent Ritual** — **Cheryl and Bill Weiss**

Leader: Today we will read the words of Isaiah offering a prophetic vision that Jesus then claims for his ministry. Likewise, we are called to claim the gift of being fully present with all people — those who mourn, those who grieve, those who have suffered indignity and oppression. Mary's Magnificat is prophetic as well. She claims the overturning of injustice even before it has come to pass. In the difficulty of her situation, she "sings" with joy about the very real presence of God growing within her.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise [One], I would do my part;

Yet what can I give Him: I will give my heart.

Reader: We unwrap a present on this third Sunday of Advent
with great anticipation for the gift that God will reveal.
People: We open our hearts as we open the gift!

The gift is unwrapped…

Reader: The promise of Joy is the Divine Gift we receive.
People: And what will we do with it?

The box is opened and the candle from it is placed on the Advent wreath and lit.

Reader: The gift of joy is not the equivalent of happiness,
but rather the deep conviction that we are called to be present
in the work of bringing about "great things" —
a better world for those who need it most.
People: We light this Candle of Joy as a sign that we will be
Present with Hope in the world.

The congregation joins into song.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise [One], I would do my part;
Yet what can I give Him: I will give my heart.

Prayer of Presence

Let us pray:

Holy Living Light of God,
you are our Joyful Presence.
Let this joy grow in our lives each day,
so we can be a Present of Joy to others.
Unwrap and open our hearts.
May it be so.
Amen.

*Opening Hymn No. 611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" *Hymn to Joy*

Prayer of Illumination Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 61: 1-4; 10

God has sent me to bring good news to those who are poor;
to heal broken hearts;
to proclaim release to those held captive
and liberation to those in prison;
to announce a year of favor from YHWH, and the day of God's vindication;
to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who grieve in Zion —
to give them a wreath of flowers instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of tears, a cloak of praise instead of despair.
They will be known as trees of integrity, planted by YHWH to display God's glory.
They will restore the ancient ruins,
and rebuild sites long devastated;
they will repair the ruined cities,
neglected for generations…
They will be known as trees of integrity,
planted by YHWH to display God's glory.
I will joyfully exult in YHWH,
who is the joy of my soul!

Gospel Reading—Luke 1:41-55

"As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why am I so favored, that the mother of the Messiah should come to me? The moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who believed that what our God said to her would be accomplished!"
Mary said:

"My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior.

For you have looked with favor
upon your lowly servant,
and from this day forward
all generations will call me blessed.
For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your Name.
Your mercy reaches from age to age
for those who fear you.
You have shown strength with your arm;
you have scattered the proud in their conceit;
you have deposed the mighty from their thrones
and raised the lowly to high places.
You have filled the hungry with good things,
while you have sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of Israel your servant,
mindful of your mercy —
the promise you made to our ancestors —
to Sarah and Abraham
and their descendants forever."

Conversation with Mission Partners	**Being Present With Joy**	**Rev. Pablo Delgado and Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**
***Hymn No. 721**	**"Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"**	***Pescador de Hombres***
Sharing of Joys and Concerns		**Cheryl and Bill Weiss**
Prayer of the people		

The congregation joins in song.

Right here and right now we open our senses
to see and perceive the gifts we've been given,
to know and believe that what we must do
is open our hearts to let all gifts flow through.

Leader: As we have done for the last two weeks, we will begin our prayers by taking time to stay fully present in this moment as we approach the holy mystery of Christmas. Too often we are afraid to allow joy to creep in, buoyed by small, ordinary things. How can we have joy when there is so much suffering? Being present with joy in the world is a subversive act as we proclaim that despair is dispelled when we make a connection with another. And in that connection, is connection to the ever-present God.

We will begin our prayers with three questions, each followed by a short silence. Focusing intentionally on thoughts and memories can be a kind of prayer, bringing our lives into a conversation with the Holy. I invite you to take a deep breath and close your eyes if you are comfortable doing that.

The first question is this: Who was a gift of presence to you this week? Did you experience their attention in a way that felt like a special connection?
Take a moment to recall this in your mind's eye, seeing it emerge like opening a gift. If you cannot recall such a moment, it is OK… this week you will notice these moments more deeply.

[pause for a bit]

The second question is this: How did you offer yourself as a gift of presence? What did it feel like to extend your attentiveness and availability beyond yourself? Did you notice how it made a difference to someone else for you to be truly present to them?

[pause for a bit]

The third question is this: Is it possible that God's presence is felt more acutely in these moments when we truly tend to one another? What could you do this coming week that would allow God's gift of Joy to flow through you to someone else? It may be as simple as finding opportunities to speak an encouraging word. Or as complex as actually lifting up someone's circumstances through volunteering or donating.

[pause for a bit]

The congregation joins in song.

Right here and right now we open our senses
to see and perceive the gifts we've been given,
to know and believe that what we must do
is open our hearts to let all gifts flow through.

In this prayerful, present moment, we train our attention on those who are in distress.
We pray this week for...

[continue with the prayer concerns of your community and the world]

In this prayerful, present moment we ask you, Christ Jesus, the Greatest Gift of All,
to help us savor our journey toward the celebration of Christmas.
Help us recognize and create moments of sweet presence
rather than filling the voids with the things that do not last.
Help us to stop, notice what we are experiencing,
and accept it with open hearts and minds.
In doing this, we allow you to meet us
in the right here, right now, right where we are.

Through the power of your Spirit and in the name of Jesus the Christ,
who taught us to pray, saying:

Our God in heaven, holy is your name.
Your kin-dom come,
Your will be done, on earth as is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" *Star of the County Down

Benediction **Rev. Pablo Delgado**

Postlude **"Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"** ***arr. Lani Smith***

The service continues with fellowship.

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*Liturgy is from the Worship Design Studio for Advent 2023.
Prayers were adapted from Marcia McFee.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ
*Sunday Service Assistant/treats: Cheryl Weiss
*Flowers: Lemoine Peart

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To continue to assure the safety of all, the offering plate is located on a table in the back of the sanctuary. If you are moved to support our ministry, we invite you to place your gifts in the plate.

GIVE NOW

You may also give online through our website by clicking on the "GIVE NOW" button at the bottom of the home page. Your generosity helps us to fulfill our calling to engage in God's transformative mission in our community.

We offer our gifts of money, talents, time, and energy—the gifts of our lives in gratitude for God's relentless love and grace for all. These gifts represent our commitment to heed God's call and join God in God's mission of healing and transforming our world.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Dec. 10

- Worship Service with Open Arms Hispanic Ministries followed by soup & bread lunch – 10 am – Mackey Hall

- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place

Monday, Dec. 11

- Troop 61 – 6 pm – Mackey Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 13

- Final Advent Study with dinner – 6.30 pm – Mackey Hall
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Thursday, Dec. 14

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place

Sunday, Dec. 17

- Worship service and Commitment Sunday – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Minister of Music Rev. Dr. Thomas Shaw
Office Administrator Rev. Dr. James Henery
Tech/Media Administrator Jack Veney
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola

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Westminster Presbyterian Church strives to be a safe place for all people to worship regardless of ethnicity, creed, age, cultural background, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

ADORATION

611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

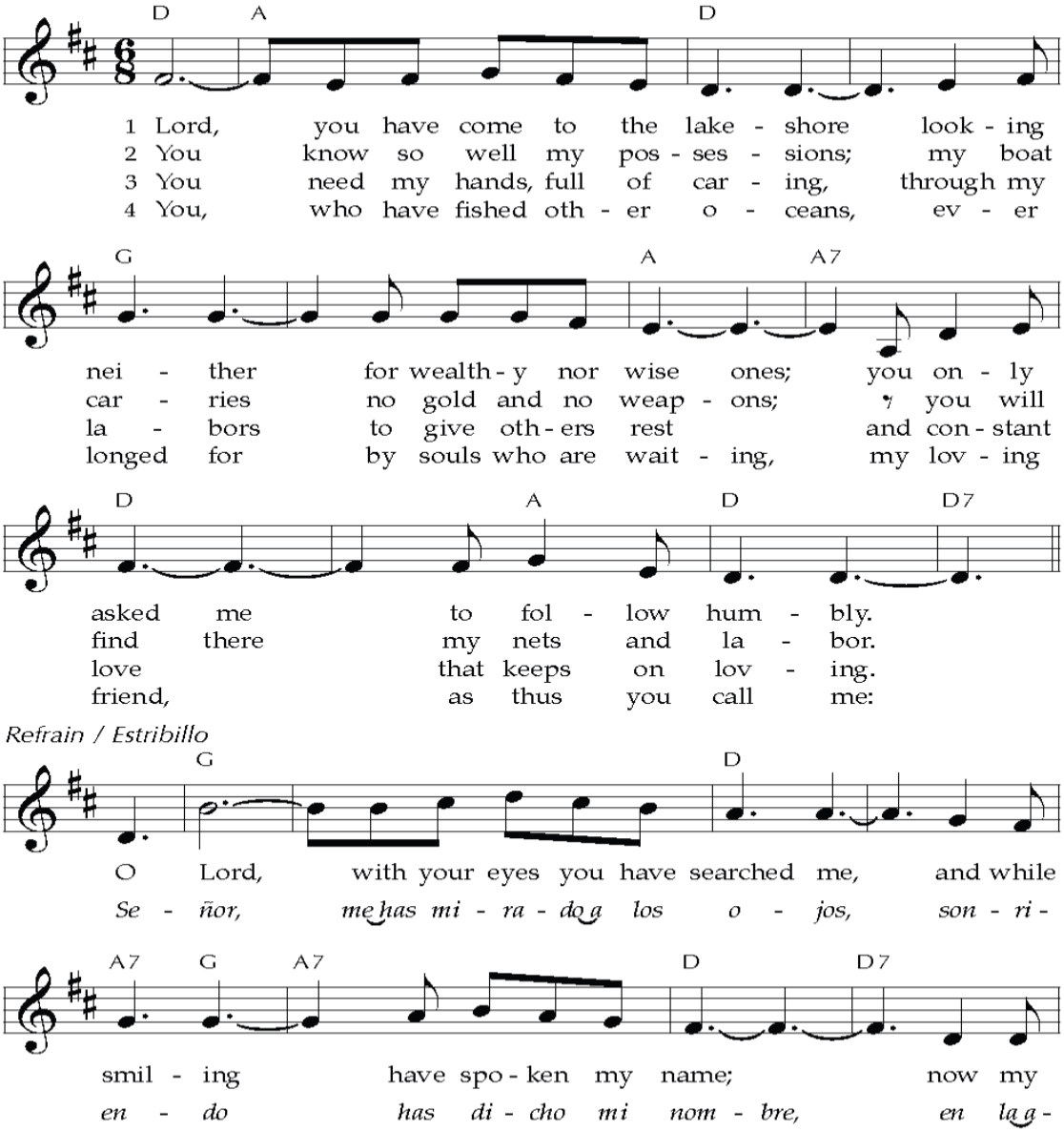
TEXT: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.
MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1842, alt.

HYMN TO JOY
8.7.8.7.D

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

721 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

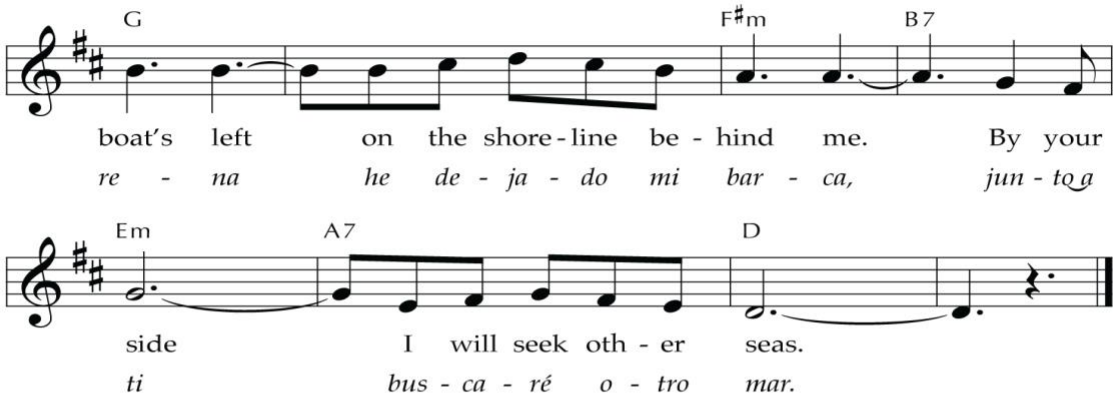
Tú has venido a la orilla



This is one of the most popular songs to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious song in Spain. It asks singers to become like the fishermen who left boats and nets to follow Jesus, first as disciples learning his way of love, then as apostles carrying that love to others.

TEXT: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1979; English trans. Gertrude Suppe, George Lockwood, and Raquel Guttierez-Achón, 1988, alt.
MUSIC: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1979; harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987
Text, English Trans., and Music © 1979, 1987, 1989 Cesáreo Gabaráin (Published by OCP)
Music Harm. © 1987 OCP

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES
8.10.10 with refrain



SPANISH

1 *Tú has venido a la orilla,*
no has buscado ni a sabios, ni a ricos,
tan sólo quieres que yo te siga. Estribillo

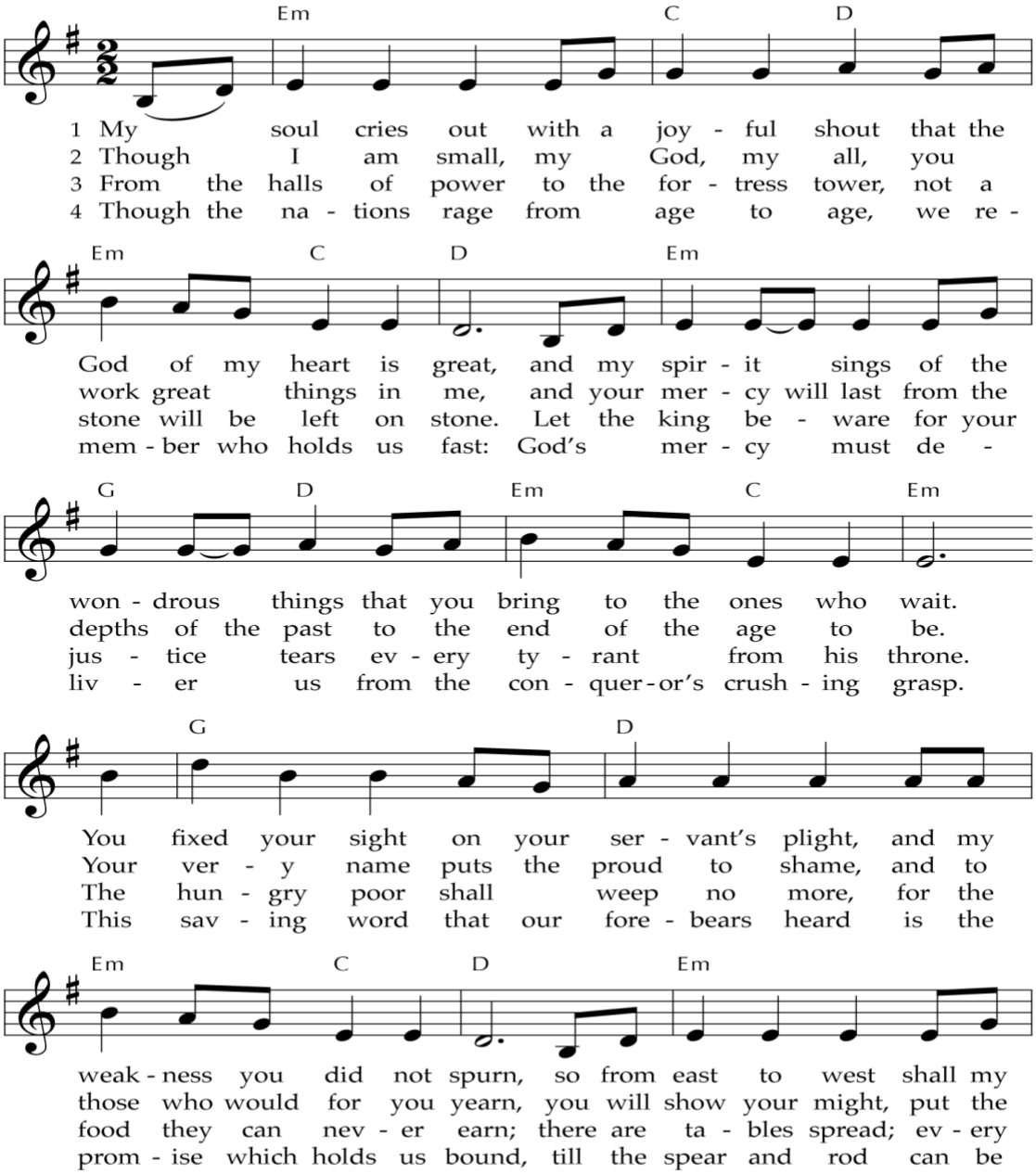
2 *Tú sabes bien lo que tengo:*
en mi barca no hay oro ni espadas,
tan solo redes y mi trabajo. Estribillo

3 *Tú necesitas mis manos,*
mi cansancio que a otros descanse,
amor que quiera seguir amando. Estribillo

4 *Tú, pescador de otros lagos,*
ansia eterna de almas que esperan,
amigo bueno, que así me llamas. Estribillo

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

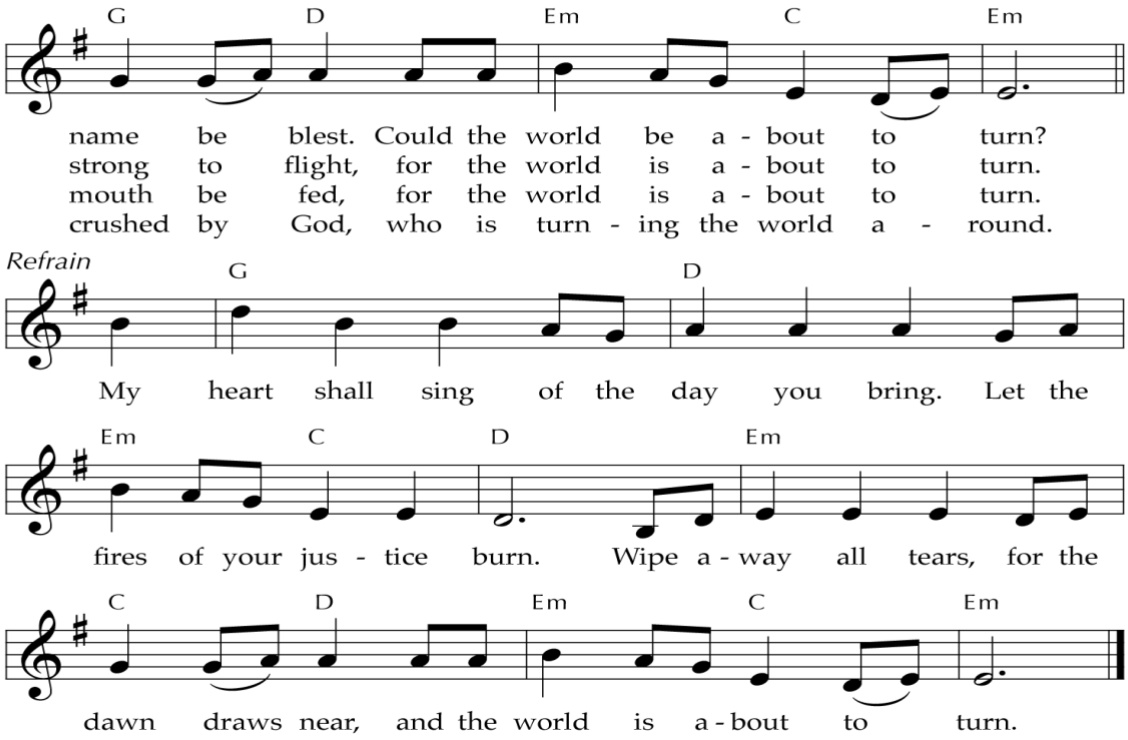
Canticle of the Turning



By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat,* Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

TEXT: Rory Cooney, 1990
MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990
Text and Music Arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN
Irregular


G D Em C Em
name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.
Refrain
G D
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
Em C D Em
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
C D Em C Em
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.