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

January 8, 2023
Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Dr. Enikő 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.

Gathering Hymn No. 145 **"What Child Is This"** **Greensleeves**

***Gathering Words** **Cheryl Weiss**

*The ***** in the liturgy indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

The day is here, the way is revealed —
The kin-dom of God has come near.
The path is prepared and Christ leads us on —
To witness to what God does in our lives, in our communities, in our world.
The Spirit pulls us close to remind —
In baptism, we are claimed as God's beloved.
In our worship and in our lives, we proclaim:
We heal. We serve. We bless.
We see all as God's beloved.

***Opening Prayer** **Cheryl Weiss**

Let us pray…

Loving Creator,
as once you pulled back the veil at Jesus' baptism,
we pray you would do so again today,
that we may at last recognize just how close you are.
And when we have seen a glimpse of what brings you joy,
open our hands and our hearts to do what pleases you most.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 476 **"Crashing Waters at Creation"** **Crashing Waters**

Call to Confession **Bill Weiss**

Can you imagine a God who would rather forgive us than punish us, who calls us 'my delight,' rather than chiding us for being so foolish and wayward? This is why Jesus came, so we might know of God's tender mercy toward us. Let us confess our lives to the One who fills us with hope, as we pray together, saying,

Prayer of Confession **Bill Weiss**

You have told us, O God, what is good.
Yet, we have strayed from your path,
we have turned away when your way is difficult, or inconvenient, or uncomfortable.

We breathe the air of empire
and everywhere we look the world encourages us to give in and give up.
We confess that we often do not resist.

Yet, still you reveal your reign among us,
still you walk ahead of us on the path of justice and truth and compassion,
still your love pours out and invites us to a different way of life.

Forgive us for holding on to the things you are trying to change,
while also refusing to put in work that would bear fruit.
Re-orient us once again this day,
and strengthen our resolve to put your love into action.
We ask in the name of your Beloved Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response **"Now the Silence" (instrumental)**

Assurance of Forgiveness **Bill Weiss**

You are God's Beloved. You delight God's heart. Believe this good news, my friends!
The Spirit of God rests upon us, anointing us with mercy and peace.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Musical Offering **"In the Bleak Midwinter"** **G. Holst, arr. H. Livingston**
Bob Iams, piano

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.

Prayer of Illumination **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading **Matthew 3:13-17** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**
(New Revised Standard Version)

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. **14** John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" **15** But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now,

for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. **16** And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. **17** And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Sermon **God's Beloved** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

***Hymn No. 490** **"Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"** **Beach Spring**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Loving Creator,
through the waters of baptism, you bring us into the family of God—the body of Christ
your enlivening Spirit reveals to us that this family is rich in divine creativity,
a community of people of many genders, races, body types and sizes, abilities and hungers,
each a glimpse of God from a different angle.

You claim each of us with delight as your beloved.
In Jesus Christ, God-in-the-flesh,
You show us how to love and support each other, working together to resist
evil, injustice, and oppression in all its forms – within us and around us.

As you gather us around this Table,
May we breathe in your Spirit of fierce love anew,
and remember that in this new life opened to us in baptism, we are set free
from the shackles of shame, of fear, of grief, of sin
to claim the power God has given us to turn from everything that destroys.

As we come, drawn to your warmth and wonder,
shine gently on the wounded places of our lives.
Through these ordinary gifts of bread and grape juice,
may we find courage to see the world as you see it:
Your reign of justice, where your abundance is enough for everyone;
Your reign of peace where all feel safe and respected;
Your reign of compassion where there is space for all to grow
and bear fruit you have made them to bear;
your reign of love where we can face difficult things by standing in your strength,
and where blessings flow everywhere.

Gather us in to your kin-dom,
and when we assume the end of the story,
remind us that you, not we, are the author.
Empower us to commit to walking and working with you
until your reign is a reality for all creation.
We ask these things 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 kingdom 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 kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution
Communion of the People
Special Music ***"'L'istesso Tempo' from Suite Modale"*** ***Ernest Bloch***
Susan Shaw, flute, and Ken Shafer, piano
Prayer after Communion

***Closing Hymn No. 475** **"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"** **Nettleton**

***Benediction** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Postlude **"In Dulci Jubilo"** ***J.S. Bach***

*The Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession were adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson, writing for the *Bibleworm Collaborative* following the Narrative Lectionary.
* Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
Music: Organ: Tom Shaw
Piano: Bob Iams, Ken Shafer
Flute: Susan Shaw
Sunday Service Assistants/Flowers: Lemoine Peart and Tim Mendiola
Treats: Cheryl Weiss

The service continues with fellowship.



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.

You may also give online through our website by clicking on the "GIVE NOW" button at the bottom of the home page.

GIVE NOW

Your generosity helps us to fulfill our calling to engage in God's transformative mission in our community.

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 8

- Worship Service – 10:00 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10:30 am – The Meeting Place
- Community Dance –3-5 p.m. – Mackey Hall

Tuesday, January 10

- Worship Committee meeting – 1 pm – Church Lounge

Thursday, January 12

- Dance & Exercise – 8:30 am – The Meeting Place
- Building Committee meeting – 10 am – Church Lounge

Sunday, January 15

- Worship Service – 10:00 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10:30 am – The Meeting Place

Westminster Presbyterian Church
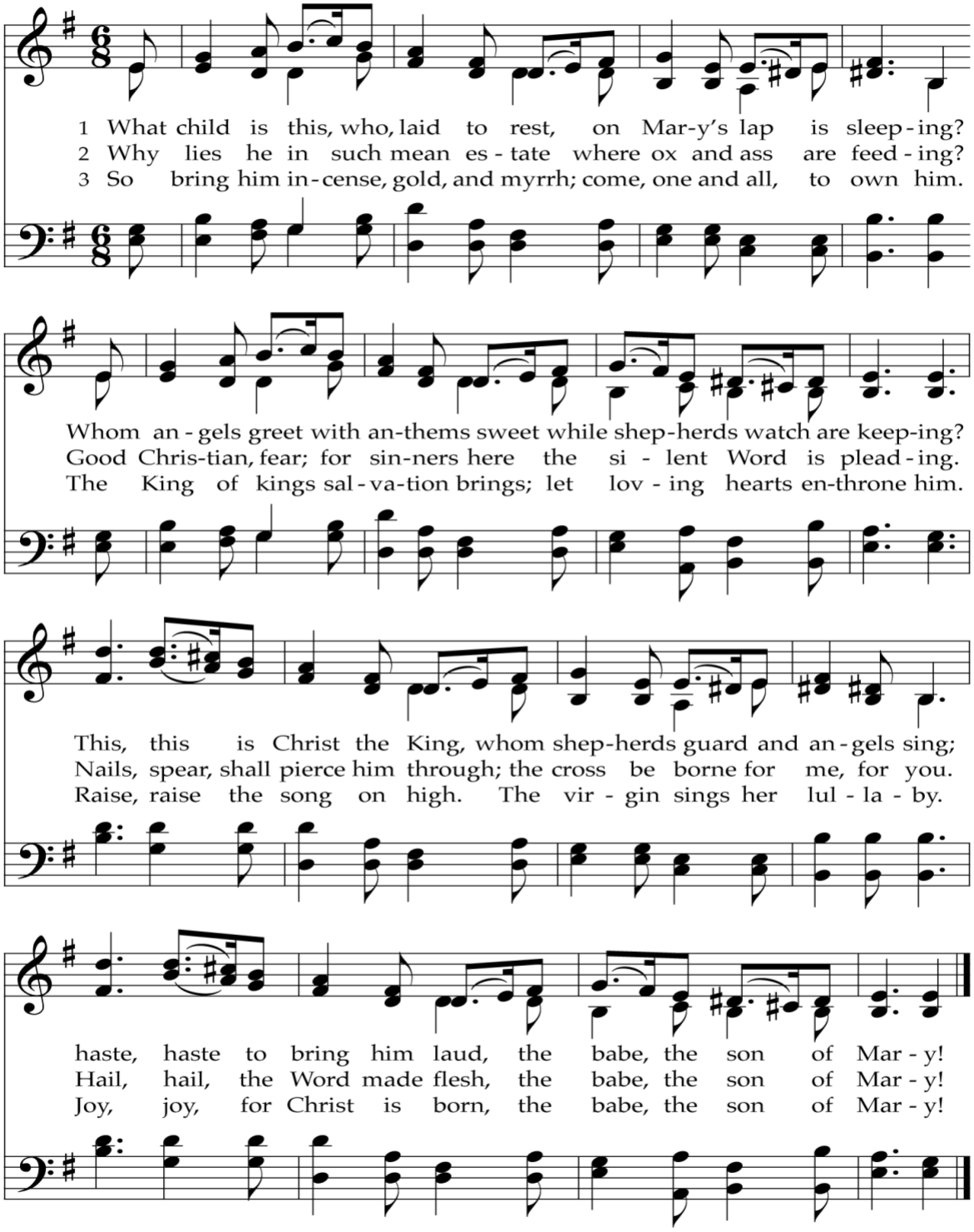
Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Minister of Music Rev. Dr. Thomas Shaw
Office Administrator Rev. Dr. Jim Henery
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola
Custodian Kara Akers

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

wpcwooster@gmail.com: 330.263.2398
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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.

145 What Child Is This
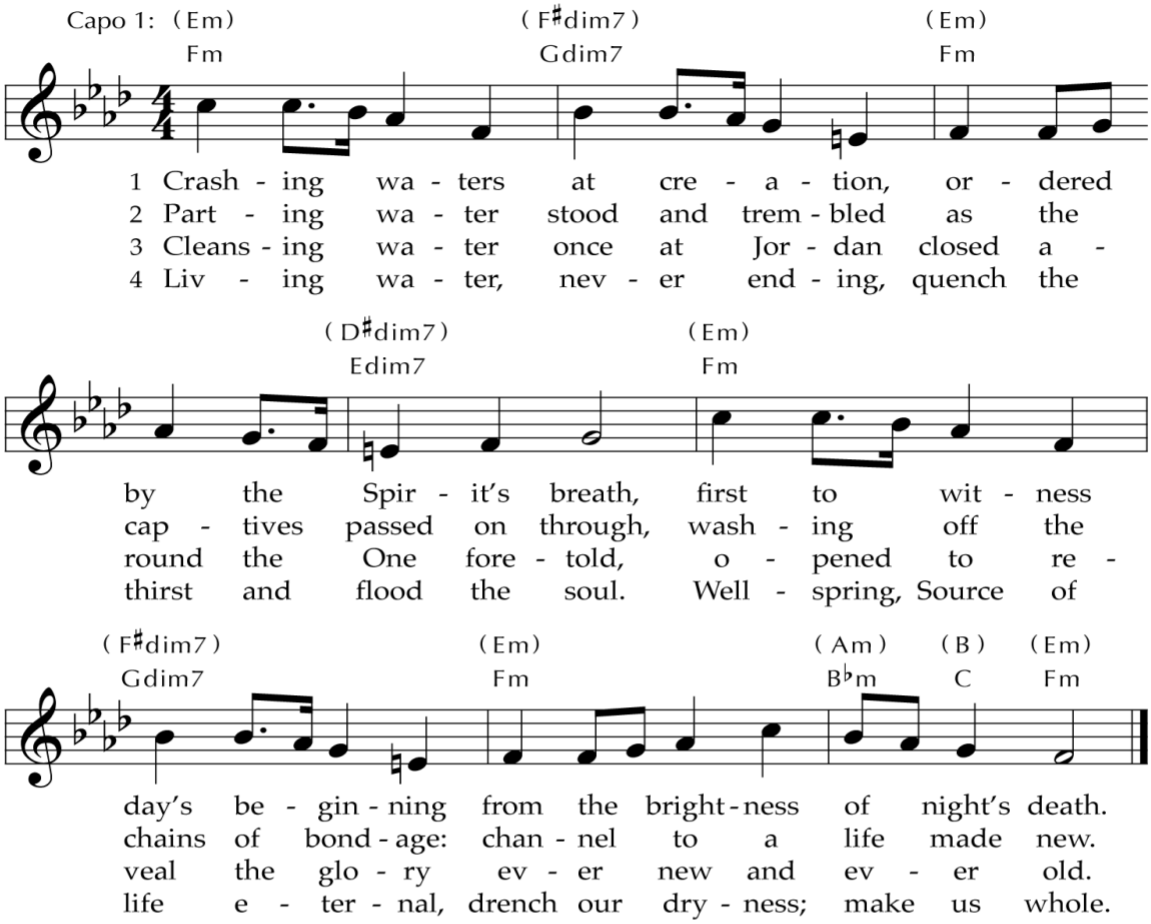


This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, 1871
MUSIC: English ballad, 16th cent.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old,* 1871

GREENSLEEVES
8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7

BAPTISM

476 Crashing Waters at Creation

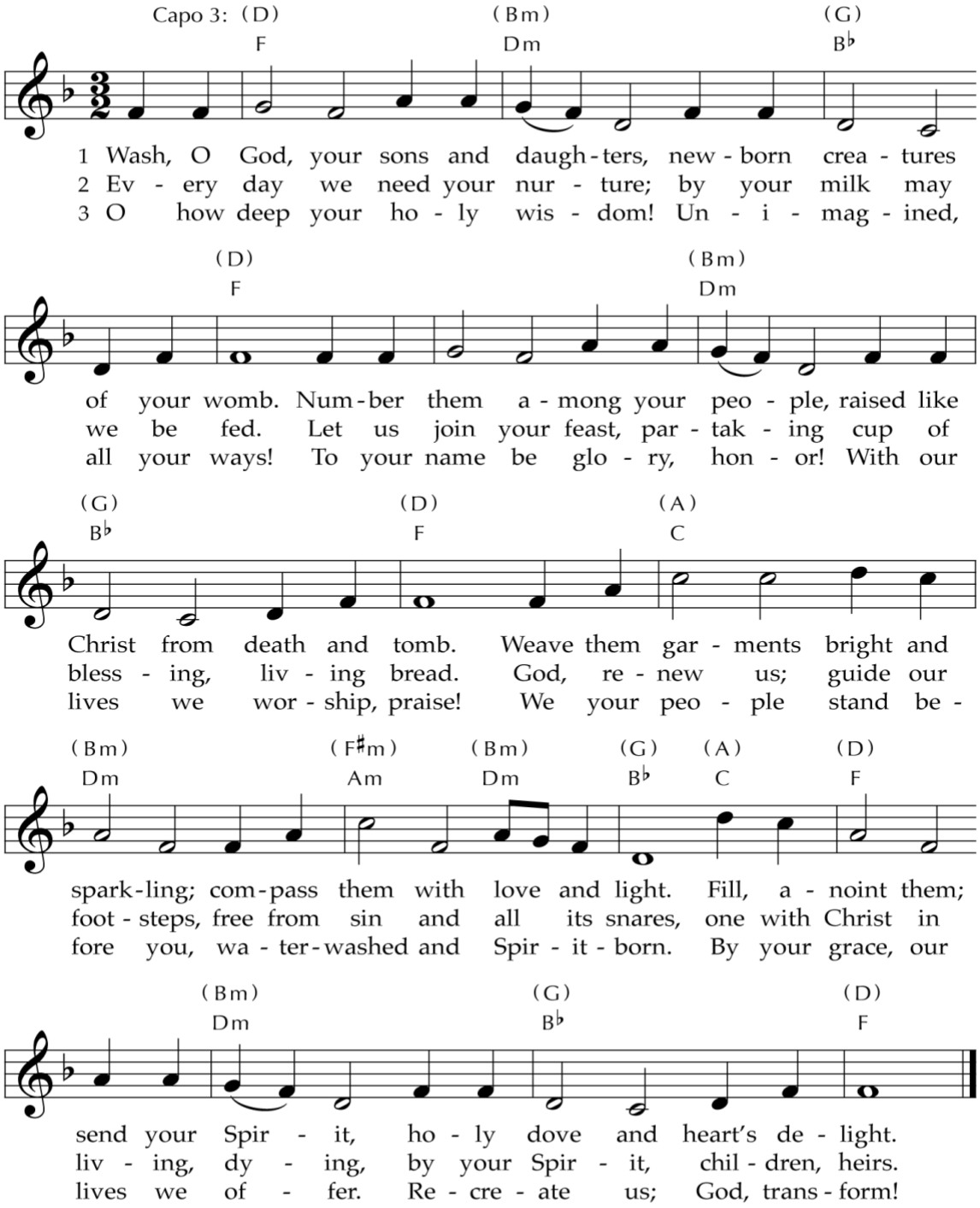


Like the Thanksgiving Over the Water in the rite of Baptism, this text by a United Church of Canada minister recalls significant events in salvation history involving water. The final stanza is a prayer to Christ, the Living Water (John 4:10, 14), to quench our spiritual thirst.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1987
MUSIC: William A. Cross, 1992
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music © 1994 William A. Cross

CRASHING WATERS
8.7.8.7

490 Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters
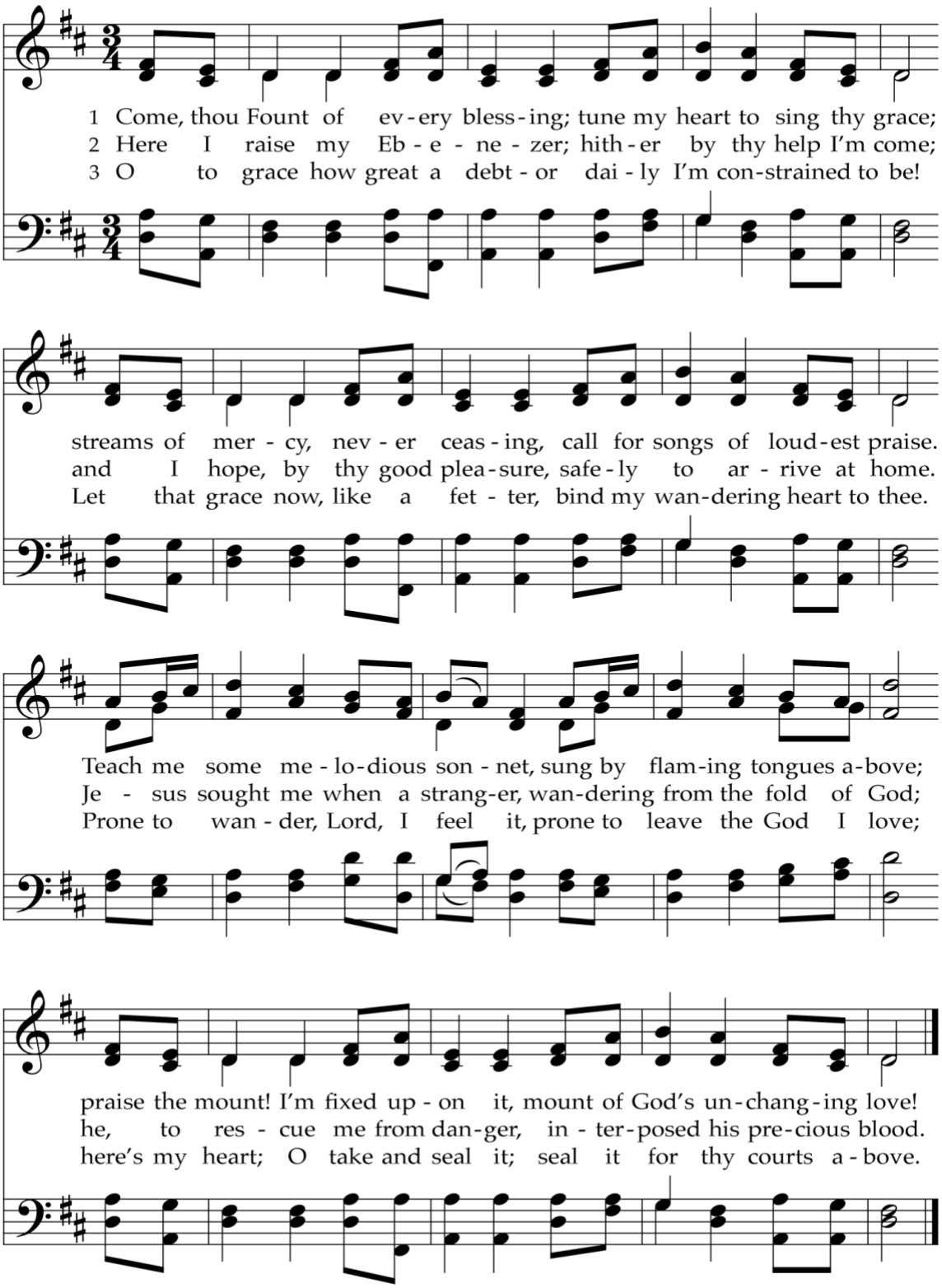


Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text incorporates many of the images associated with the water of baptism in the Thanksgiving Over the Water in *The Book of Common Worship*, especially nourishment, the calling forth of life, cleansing and renewal, freedom from bondage, and sharing in Christ's resurrection.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1987, rev.
MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958
BEACH SPRING
8.7.8.7.D

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Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

TEXT: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second,* 1813

NETTLETON
8.7.8.7.D