Westminster
Presbyterian Church

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Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord Sunday
Service of Communion
January 7, 2024

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.

Prelude **"To Bethlehem"** ***Ron Loree***
Bob Iams, piano

***Gathering Words** **Sherry Hatter-Miller**

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

The good news begins —
and it moves fast!
Listen out for the messenger proclaiming:
world-changing good news is here!
On this first Sunday of the new year,
can we hear the Holy One calling,
claiming each of us as God's Beloved?
We come to join the story! We are ready to begin anew!

Opening Prayer **Sherry Hatter-Miller**

God-ever-with-us:
draw us near to your heart, so that your grace may fill us to the brim,
and nurture seeds of joy in our soul,
until they blossom into lives of service for all.

You emerged from the baptismal waters to give us hope.
Take our fears away and lead us forward by your Light.

Breath upon the water,
Wash away our pride and anchor us in your love and compassion.
Bring us out from the wilderness into your peace and wholeness –
Until we cry: "Glory!"
Amen.

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

Renewal of Baptism **Eric Miller**

From the beginning, God has been revealing the way of Life,
and sometimes we have managed to follow it;
other times we have strayed — found ourselves in the wilderness that we or others,
your wayward children have created.

Yet, in Christ, God's kin-dom has come near to us.
As our scripture witnesses, the voice of the Holy One rang out over the waters of baptism,
saying: "You are Beloved; with you I am well pleased."
In Christ, the Spirit invites us to re-commit to God's way.

So today I ask you:
Will you lay aside what consumes you today, and immerse yourself
in love of God and neighbor?
(pause)

Will you choose Christ's good news even when it is in conflict
with the world's expectations?
(pause)

Will you follow the Spirit's lead, trusting you will never
be abandoned to face the shadows alone?
(pause)

Musical Response No. 486 "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" ***Kingdom***

Recommitting to the Way of Life **Eric Miller**

Let us respond to Spirit's invitation. Let us speak our truth:

Each of us is a child of God, and our life in Christ brings God joy.
We are beloved beyond imagining, whether we know it or not,
and we are called to reflect God's love to the world.

Musical Offering **"Cradle Song"** ***(English Carol)*** ***arr. David Wagner***

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. Enikö Ferenczy**

Scripture Readings **Mark 1: 9-20; 35-39** ***(NRSV translation)*** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. 11 And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news."

16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and
there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When they found him,
they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." 38 He answered, "Let us go on to the
neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to
do." 39 And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and
casting out demons.

Sermon **The Beginning of the Good News** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 515 **"I Come with Joy"** *Dove of Peace*

Celebrating The Lord's Supper **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of today, tomorrow, and yesterday,
As we begin this new year, we once again find ourselves looking for you.
We long for the clarity of a star in the sky, or a voice in the clouds declaring your presence in our lives.

So today we ask that you would make yourself known to us.
Do what only you can do. Reach into our spirits to give us a boost of confidence that love is real and we are not alone. Remind us that we are beloved in your eyes.

We know we're asking a lot for a group that brings very little. We don't have gold or Frankincense or Myrrh. We haven't thrown off our shoes to honor your holy ground. We haven't been baptized in the Jordan river. We haven't spent the last several days traveling here by camel. We're no Magi, Miriam, Moses or Messiah, but we're yours.

Instead, we bring ourselves to this Table—to your Table—in hopes of catching a glimpse of you. So pour your Spirit into us, and into these simple gifts of earth. Speak to us in this bread. Speak to us in the cup. Speak to us through these star words. Speak to us as you spoke through the clouds at Jesus's baptism, so that these star words may be a tool that helps us look for you in the coming year.

Holy God, you call us beloved. You are with us in our joy. You are with us in our sorrow. Surely, even as we pray, you are with us here as well. So with grateful hearts, we unite our voices in prayer, using the words your son 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.

Words of Institution
Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

Closing Hymn No. 744** **"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"** ***Junkano

Benediction **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Postlude **"Rise Up Shepherds and Follow"** ***arr. James Mansfield***
(Traditional Spiritual)

The service continues with fellowship.

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*The Gathering Words and Opening Prayer was written by Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy.
The Renewal of Baptism litany was adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson.
The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving was adapted from Rev. Sarah Speed.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Bob Iams
*Sunday treats/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.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Jan. 7

- Choir Rehearsal – 9 am – The Meeting Place
- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place
- 150th Anniversary Planning Committee – 11.15 – The Lounge

Monday, Jan. 8

- Troop 61 – 6 pm – Mackey Hall

Tuesday, Jan. 9

- Worship Committee Meeting – 1 pm – The Lounge

Wednesday, Jan. 10

- Benevolence Committee Meeting – 5.15 – The Lounge

Thursday, Jan. 9

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place

Sunday, Jan. 10

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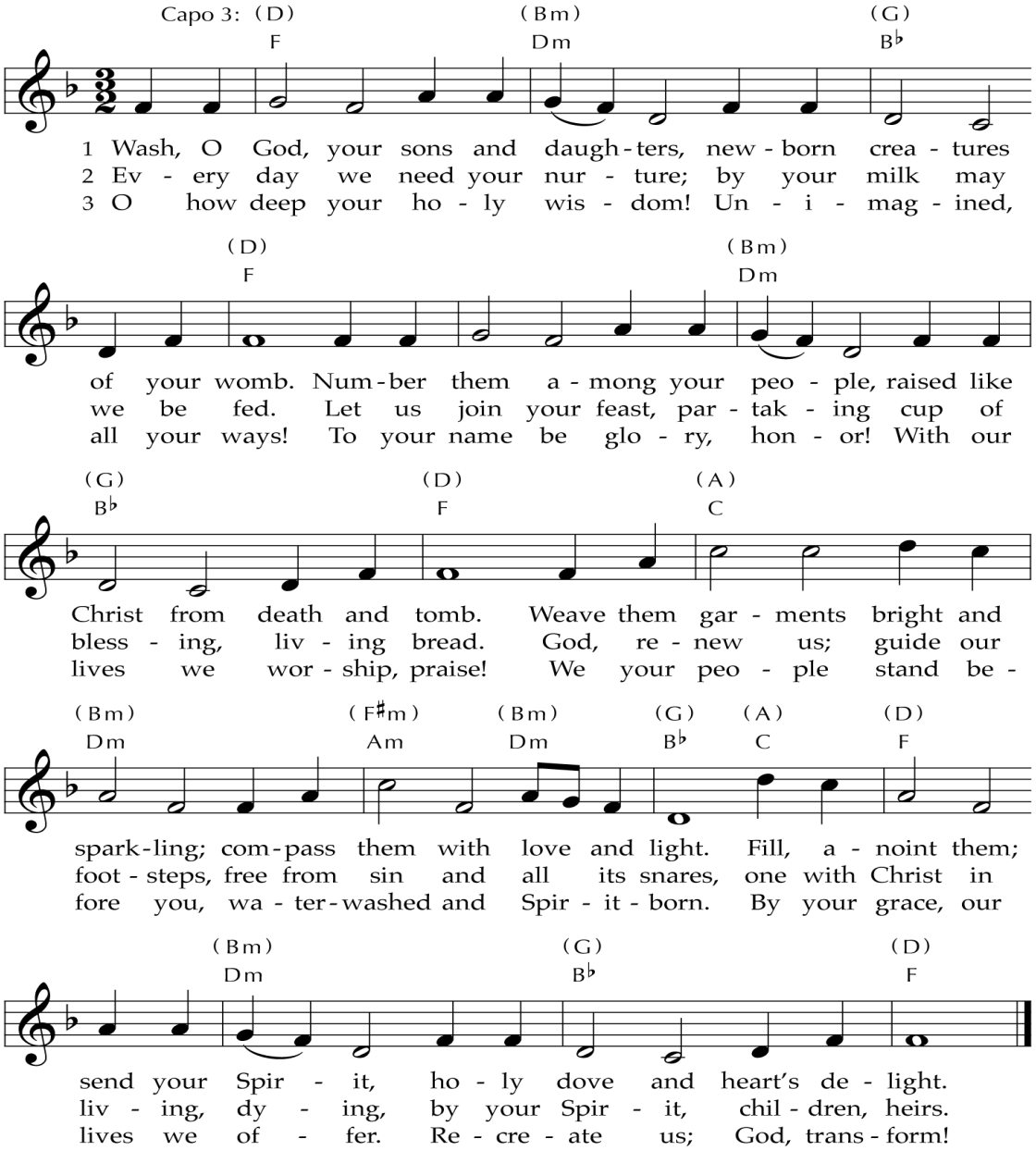
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

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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.

BAPTISM

490 Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.
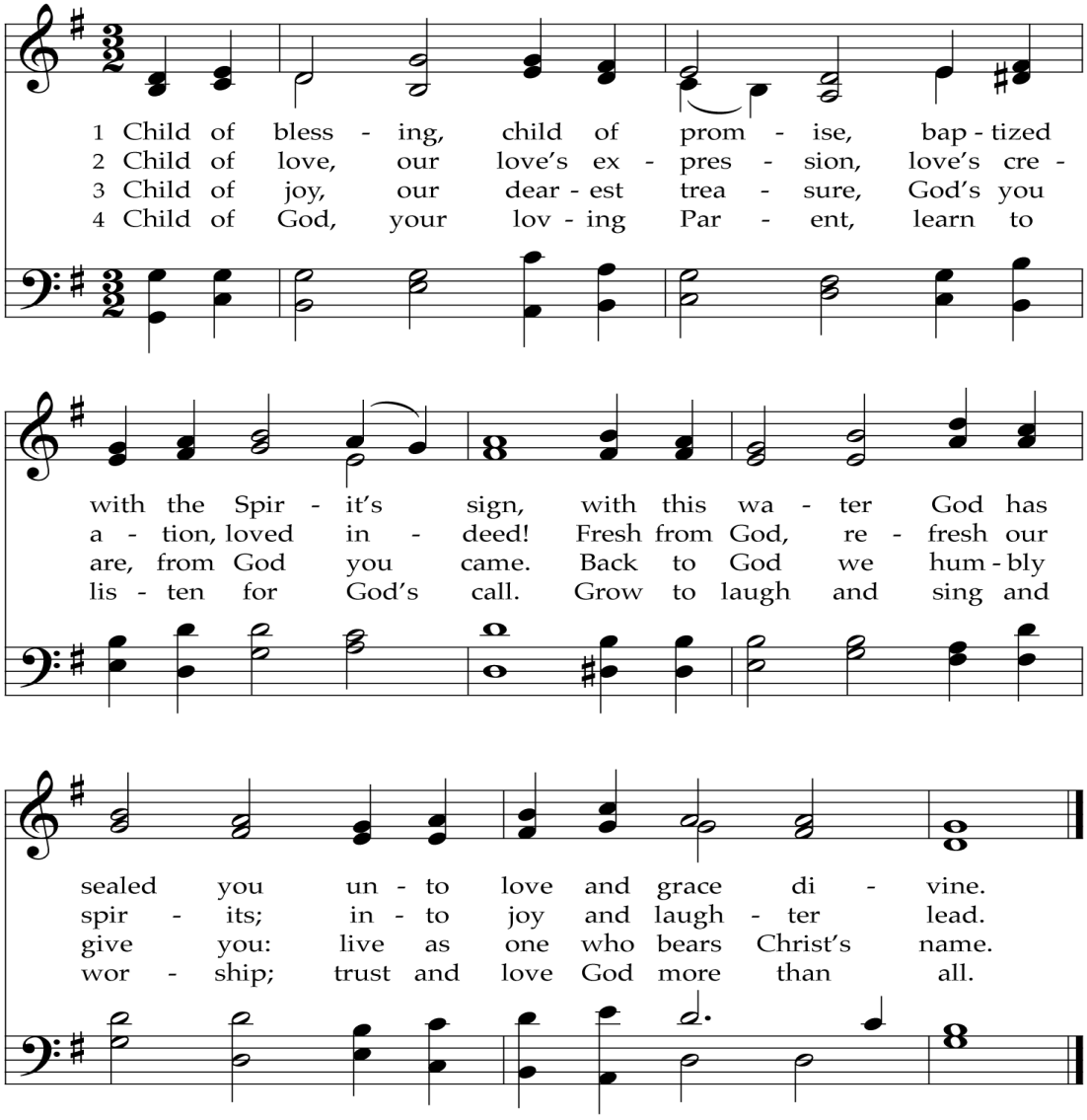
This text incorporates many of the images associated with the water of baptism in the Thanksgiving Over the Water in *The Book of Common Worship,* especially nourishment, the calling forth of life, cleansing and renewal, freedom from bondage, and sharing in Christ's resurrection.

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

Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)
Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press/Van Ness Press, Inc. (admin. Music Services)

BAPTISM

486 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
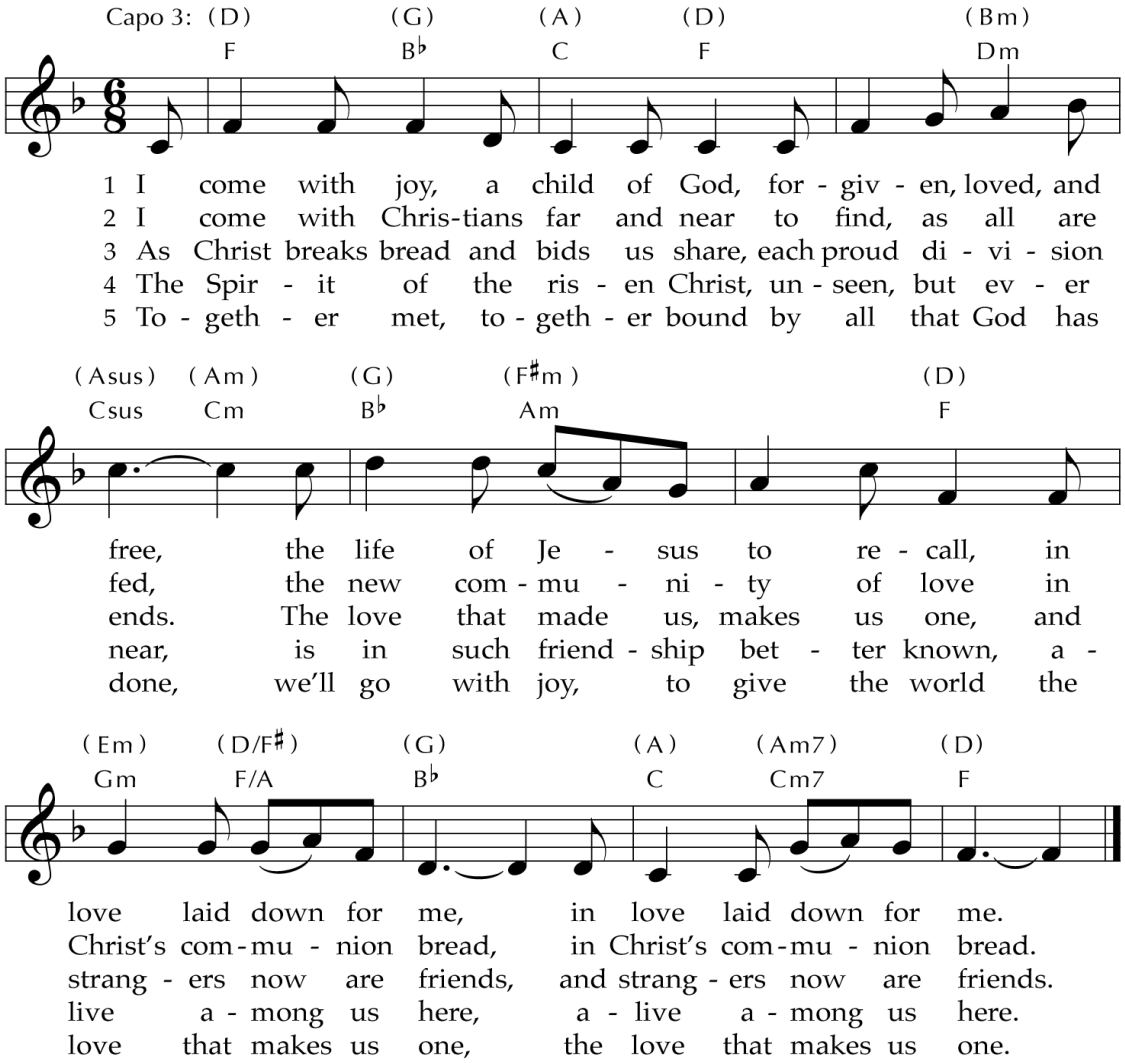


This hymn addressed to a newly-baptized child begins each stanza with a facet of the child's identity, culminating in "child of God." By being directed to one person rather than the whole congregation, this text occupies a special category among the "songs of encouragement."

TEXT: Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1980
MUSIC: V. Earle Copes, 1959
Text © 1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner

KINGDOM
8.7.8.7
(alternate tune: STUTTGART)

I Come with Joy 515



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

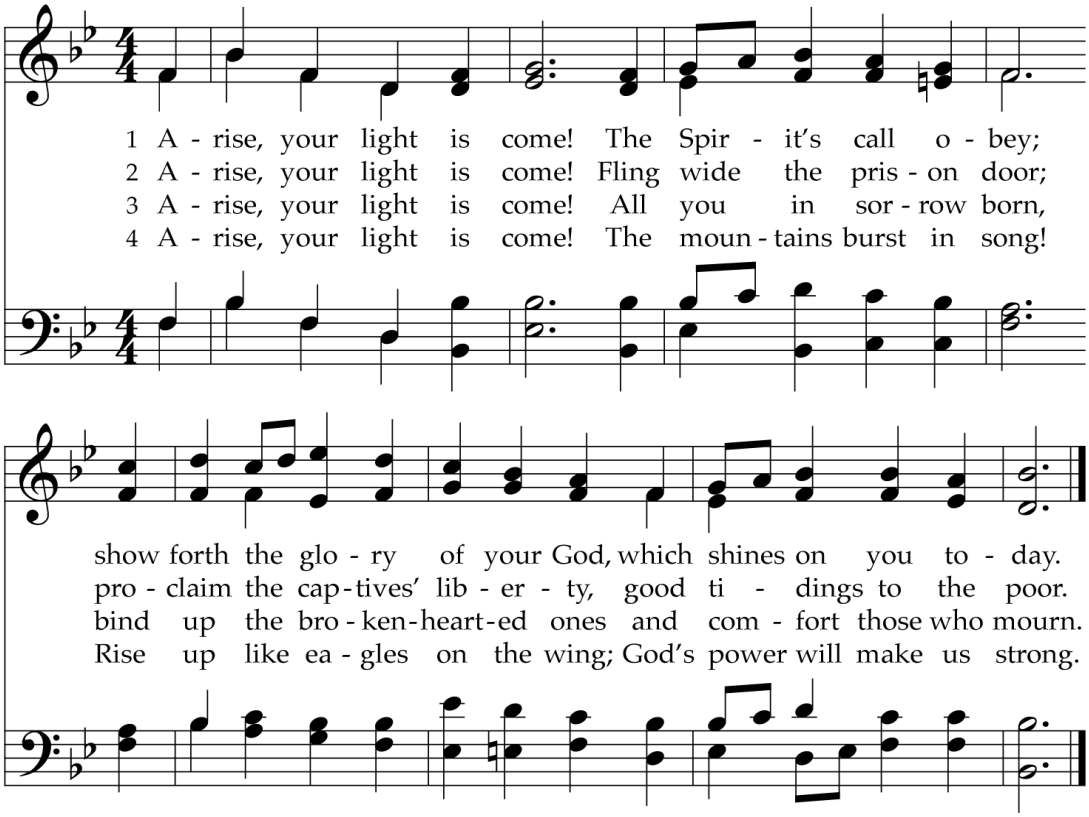
This text affirms that Christian unity is not achievement but gift, one renewed each time we gather for the Lord's Supper. Each of us enters as an "I" and leaves as part of "we." The unadorned language of this text is well matched to the simple shape note tune that sets it here.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1993
MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1977
Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company
Music Arr. © 1977 Hope Publishing Company

DOVE OF PEACE
8.6.8.6.6

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!



Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1–2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894
Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG
SM
(this tune in a lower key, 815)