Westminster
Presbyterian Church

September 19, 2021
17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Dr. Barbara Johnson**

Minute for Mission for the Peace and Global Witness Offering **Dawn Kridel**

Prelude Fanfare on "Duke Street" JAMES MANSFIELD

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 Words** **Bill & Cheryl Weiss**

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

When we have been cast aside in the deserts of our lives,
You open our eyes to life-giving water that sustains us in our needs.
When our future seems lost, and others have taken our place of honor,
You restore our hope and promise us an inheritance of our own.
Who is like you among the gods?
Who answers prayers in times of deepest needs?
We join together to worship you, O God,
For you alone can save us.

***Opening Prayer**

Holy God who created all that exists, we praise you.
We open our hearts and our spirits this day to your eternal love and forgiving mercy.
Be with us as we participate in this worship service.
Remind us again that Jesus Christ gave his life that we might fully understand
the depth and breadth of your love.
In all things and at all times we praise you.
Amen.

***Opening Hymn No. 49** "The God of Abraham Praise" LEONI

Call to Confession **Bill & Cheryl Weiss**

God, freely and faithfully, offers us the access to grace we need, through Jesus Christ. Let us join in offering our confession by telling the truth to the One who is our hope, our life, as we pray together, saying…

Prayer of Confession/Truth Telling

God who creates the future, you call us to follow you,
yet we confess we prefer to remain where we are.
You offer us new beginnings, yet we continue to make the same familiar choices.
You invite us into the fullness of life, yet we distance ourselves from you
and each other through fear and doubt.
Forgive us, O God.
Cleanse from us every unworthy thought, word and deed with the grace of Christ our Lord.

Rouse us by the Spirit to be intentional, courageous disciples
even when the world does not welcome us or the word we proclaim in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness **Bill & Cheryl Weiss**

Friends, the God of Hagar and Sarah, the God of Isaac and Ishmael
continues to call us into community across boundaries,
providing water in the desert and the promise of a future.

Let us remember that grace is working in our lives,
opening hearts, restoring justice, making all things new.
In Christ Jesus we are assured our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Musical Response	**"**Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten"	GEORGE NEUMARK/ARR. GBAGBO
Prayer of Illumination		**Rev. Dr. Barbara Johnson**
Scripture Reading	Genesis 21:8-21	**Bill & Cheryl Weiss**
Sermon	**God Hears**	**Rev. Dr. Barbara Johnson**
Hymn No. 850	"In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness"	DIVNUM MYSTERIUM
Prayer of the People		**Bill & Cheryl Weiss**

With the hope of people who dream, we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us:

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.

*** Closing Hymn No. 65**	"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"	CWM RHONDDA

***Benediction** **Rev. Dr. Barbara Johnson**
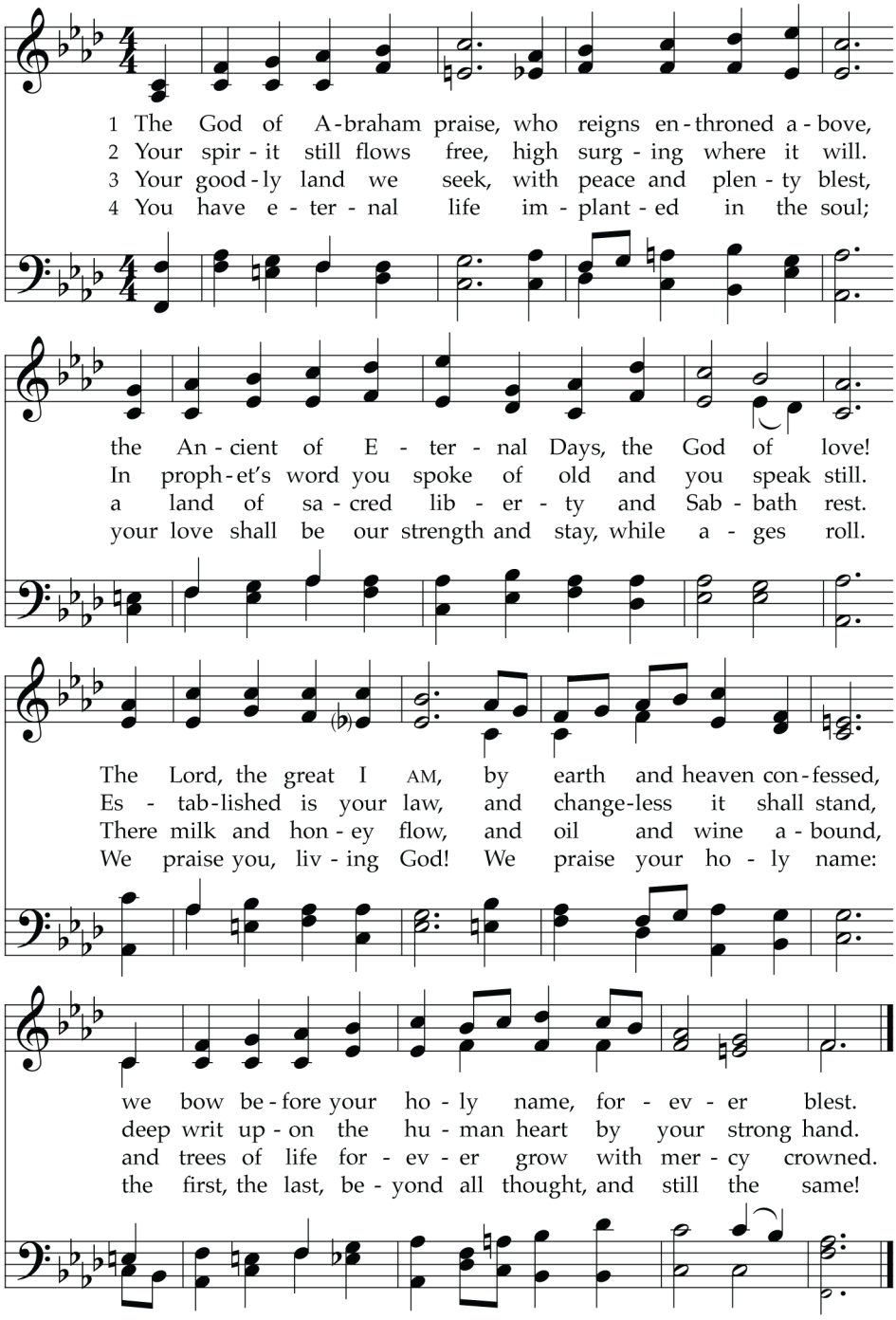
Postlude Postlude on "Cwm Rhondda" DAVID PAXTON

The service continues with refreshments and fellowship.

To assure the safety of all, currently we are not passing the offering plates. They are in the back of the sanctuary. We invite you to place your gifts there. Thank you for your generosity.

Music:	Organ, Drums	Divine Gbagbo
	Organ, Piano	Ken Shafer
AV System Assistant		Greg Barbu
Refreshments		Candy Relle
Flowers		Dorothy Iams
Sanctuary Set Up		Bill & Cheryl Weiss

49 The God of Abraham Praise



Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.
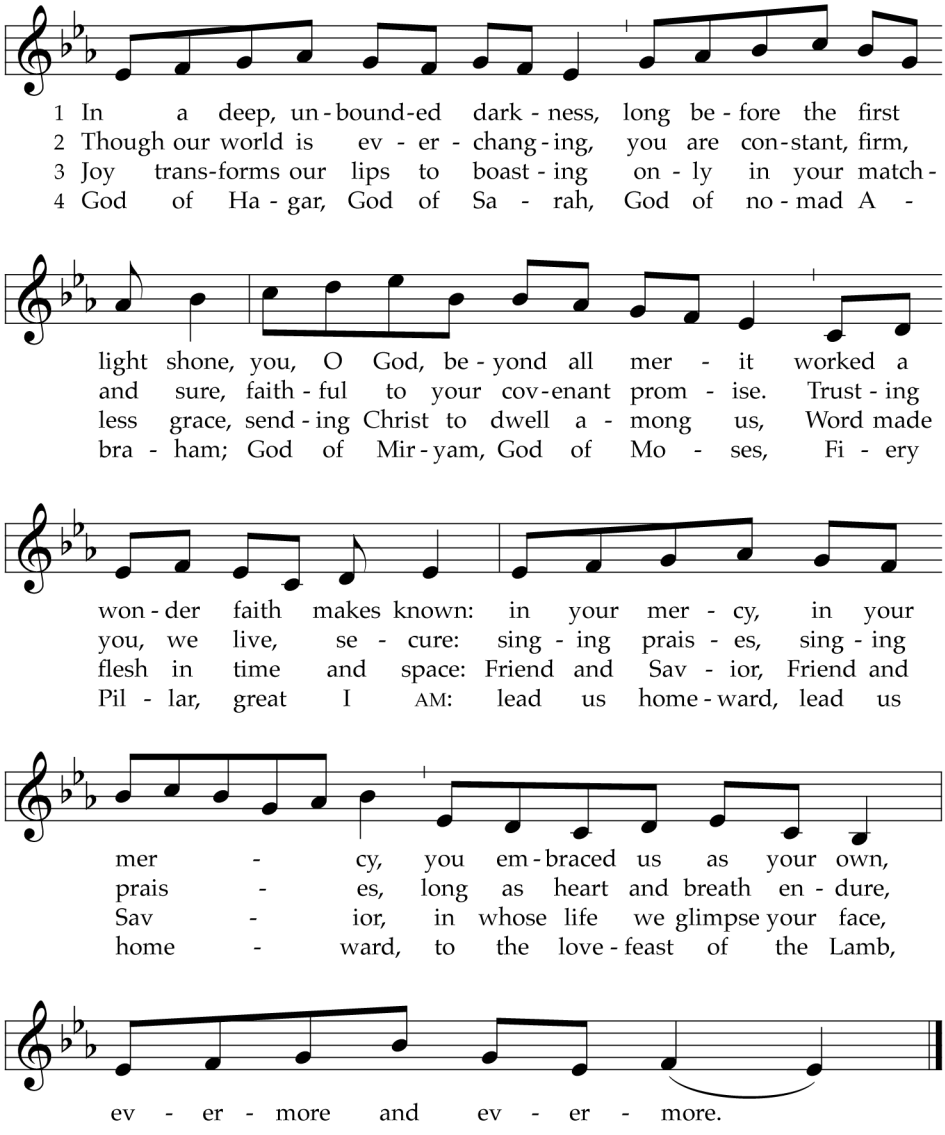
TEXT: Moses Maimonides, 12th cent.; vers. Daniel ben Judah Dayan, 1404; stanzas 1, 3, trans. Thomas Olivers, c.1770, alt.; stanzas 2, 4, trans. Max Landsberg, Newton M. Mann, and William C. Gannett, 1884, 1910, alt.

MUSIC: Jewish melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers, 1770

LEONI
6.6.8.4.D

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

850 In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness
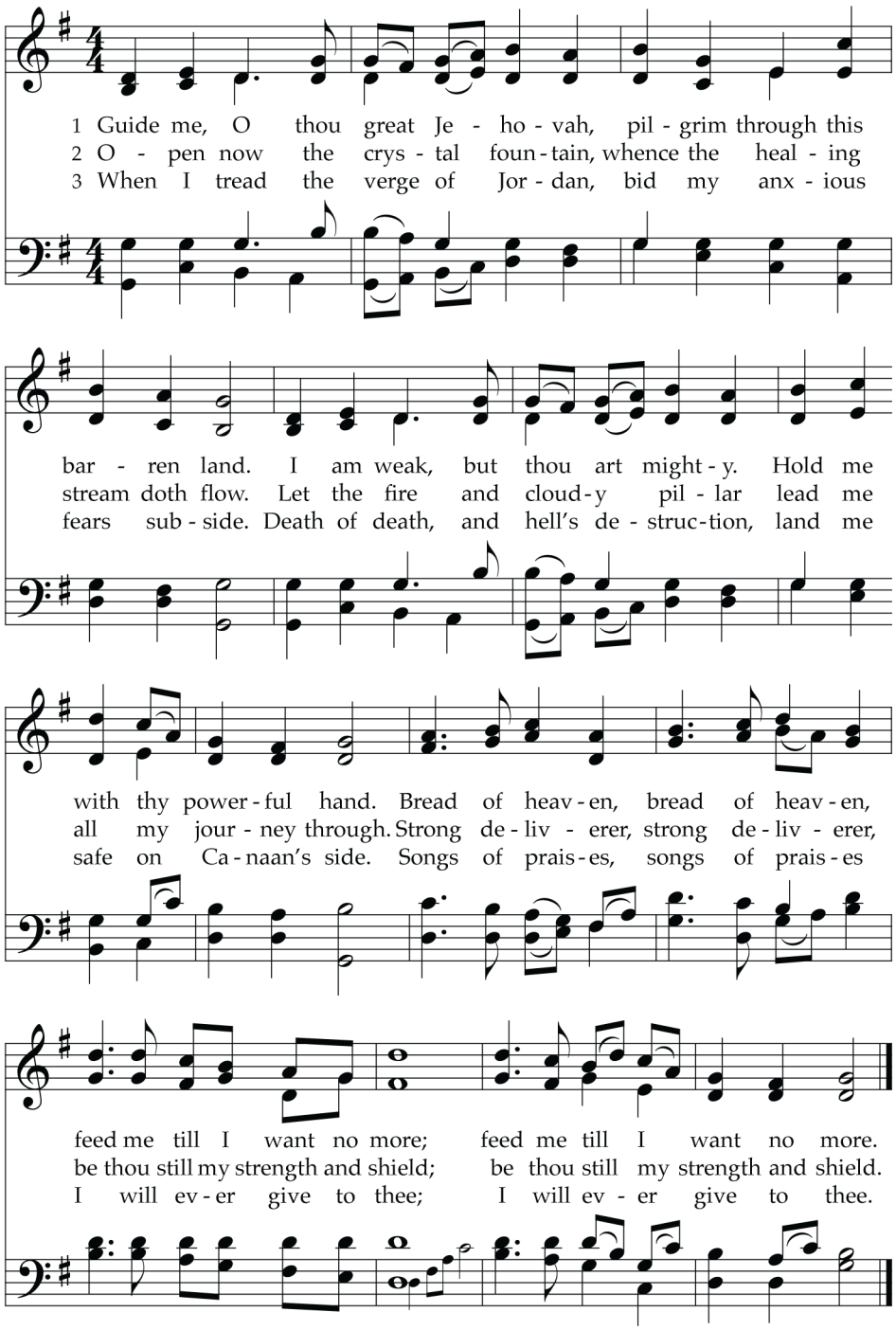


Setting this translation of a Chinese hymn to Western plainsong enhances the universal context of the opening stanza. The familiar pattern of creation, covenant, and incarnation in the first three stanzas leads to a far-reaching final stanza that looks both backward and forward.

TEXT: Anon. Chinese; trans. Francis P. Jones, 1953; adapt. Mary Louise Bringle, 2012
MUSIC: Plainsong, Mode V; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940
DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
8.7.8.7.8.7.7

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Music Harm. © 1943, 1961, 1985 Church Pension Fund

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65



Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

TEXT: William Williams, 1762; stanza 1, trans. Peter Williams, 1771; stanzas 2–3, trans. William Williams, 1772 CWM RHONDDA
MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Office Administrator Judy Mowrer
Minister of Music and Worship Arts Dr. Divine Gbagbo
Worship Accompanist Ken Shafer
Custodian Kara Akers

353 East Pine Street, Wooster, OH 44691 Phone: 330-263-2398
Office Hours: 9am–noon, Tuesday through Friday
Website: www.wpcwooster.org or www.facebook.com/wpcwooster

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.