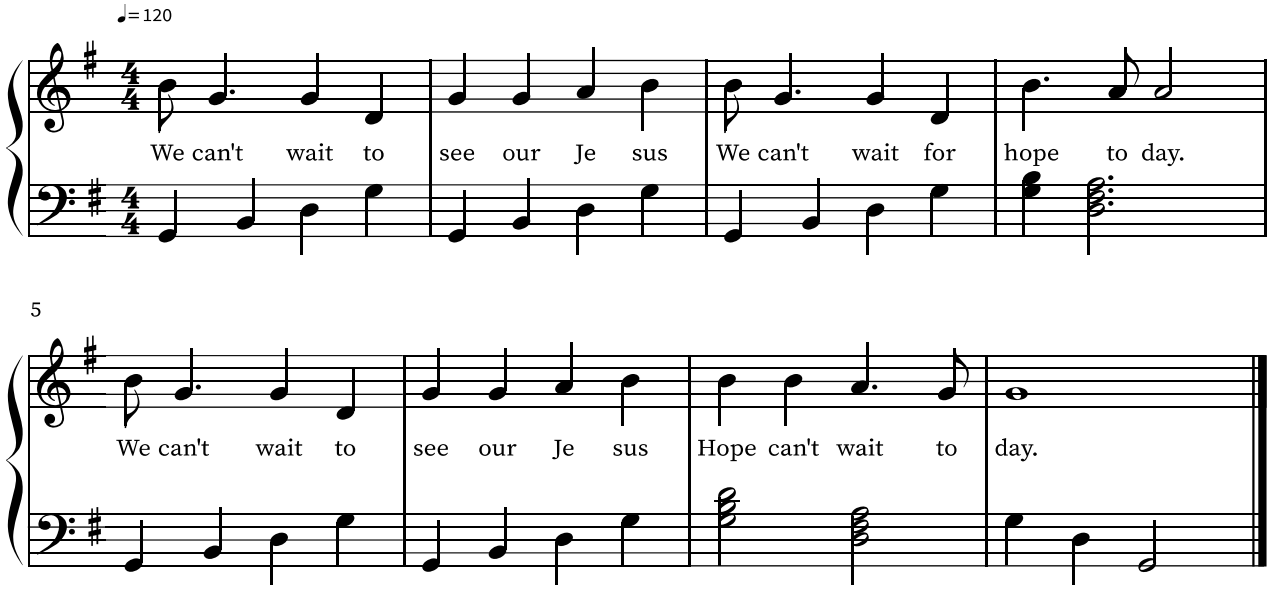
Westminster
Presbyterian Church
353 E. Pine St., Wooster, OH. 44691
330-263-2398 / wpcwooster.org

December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Commitment 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 Song **"We Can't Wait"** **Pam Funai**



2. Peace
3. Joy
4. Love

Candle Lighting Litany **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

What makes you feel connected? What makes you feel loved?
Hear the answers of different generations from our community:

Handwritten cards.
Casseroles.
Being invited in.
Reading a book together.
Making joyful noise together – carrying notes in a bucket.
Playing with friends at the nursery school.
Home-cooked food.

Belly laughs.
Dancing with my partner in the kitchen.
Packing medical scrubs to be sent to Honduras with friends.

Today we light the candle of love. This candle is a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love. May this good news—these threads of love—not only weave deeper connections between neighbors but shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly.

In a lonely world, let this light shine bright.
From generation to generation, we are held in God's love.
Thanks be to God for that good news. Amen.

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

Call to Confession **Ferenc Relle**

One of the greatest gifts and challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christian alone.
We need one another. We need one another to grow.
We need one another to love. And we need one another to see God more clearly.

So together, let us lift our voices in unison.
Let us lean into the ties that bind and pray to our merciful God.

Prayer of Confession **Ferenc Relle**

God of today and tomorrow,
When Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's house.
Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her.

How often do we have that same opportunity?
How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off?
How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy?

Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs.
We want to see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 698 "Take, O Take Me as I Am" ***John Bell/Iona***

Assurance of Forgiveness **Candy Relle**

Friends, this is what I know—
God delights in us.
God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says,
"Come on home. There is room for you here!"

And in that moment, we are blessed. In that moment, we are forgiven.
In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home.
So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace.

Let us respond together, using the words from Mary's song:

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servant,
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed." **(**Luke 1:46,55 NRSV)

Musical Offering **"Manger Songs"** ***Lloyd Larsen***
Westminster Choir

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 **Luke 1:39-55** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**
(NRSV translation)

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, **40** where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit **42** and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. **43** And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? **44** For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. **45** And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, **47** and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for God has looked with favor on the lowly state of God's servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name;
50 indeed, God's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation.
51 God has shown strength with God's arm; God has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
52 God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;
53 God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
54 God has come to the aid of God's child Israel, in remembrance of God's mercy,
55 according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Sermon **We See God in Each Other** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 771** **"What is the World Like"** ***New World

Commitment to Partnership in God's Mission in 2023 **Rev. Dr. Eniko Ferenczy**

We invite you to bring forward your pledge cards and place them in the basket.

Commitment Hymn No. 757 "**Today We All are Called to Be Disciples"** ***Kingsfold***
(verses 1 and 4)

Sharing of Joys and Concerns **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

Prayer of the People **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

We ask 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 kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 366** **"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"** ***Hyfrydol

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

Postlude **"Whisper, Whisper"** ***Jay Althause***

*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*The words for worship were *Adapted from a liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org."*

*Music: Tom Shaw – Organ
*Flowers: Barbara Tartir
*Treats: Candy Relle

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, December 18, Fourth Sunday in Advent; Commitment Sunday

- Choir Rehearsal – 9 am – The Meeting Place
- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10:30 am – The Meeting Place

Thursday, December 22

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place

Saturday, December 24

- Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm

Sunday, December 25

- No worship service
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10:30 am – The Meeting Place

Sunday, January 1

- Worship service at First Presbyterian Church, 10.15 am

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

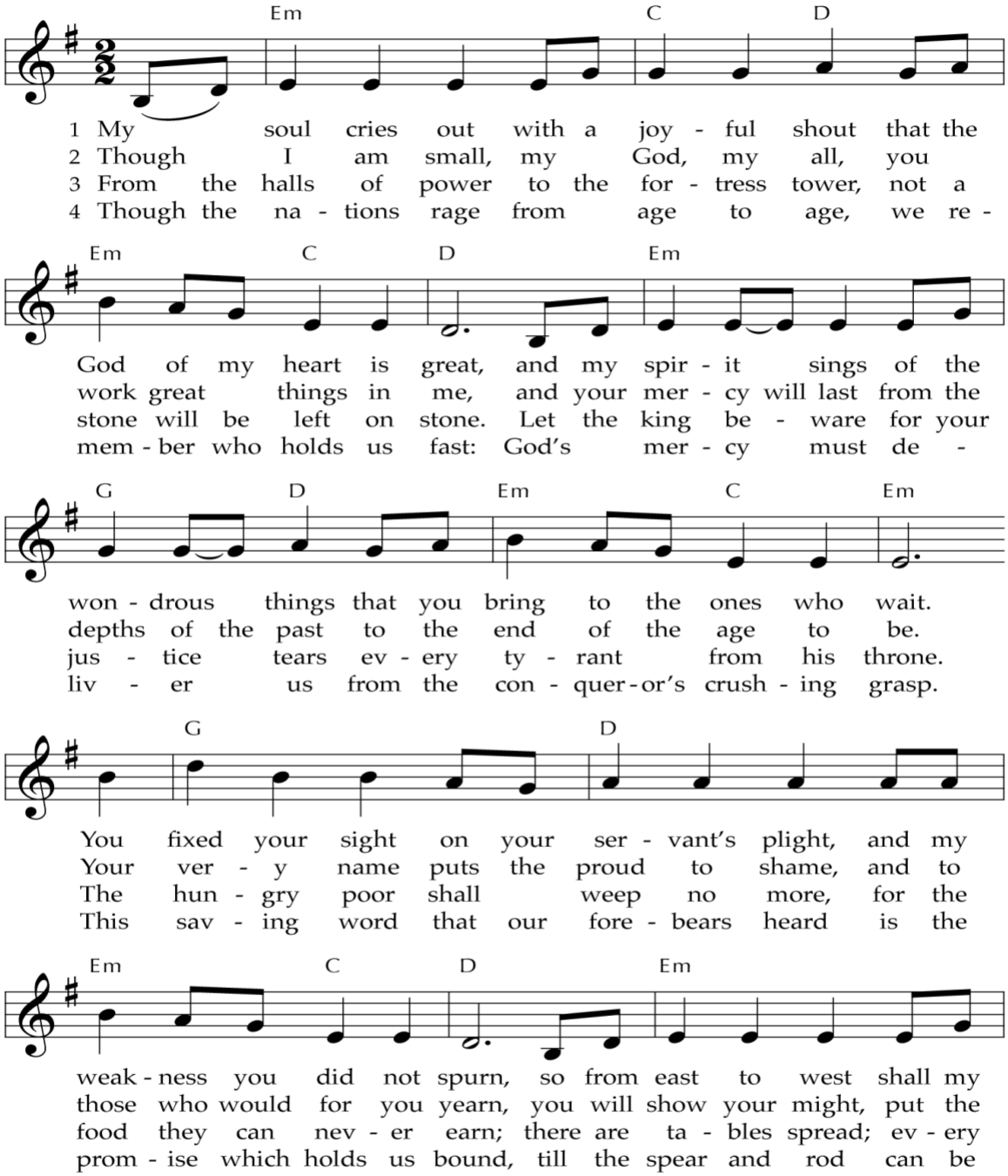
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

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.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



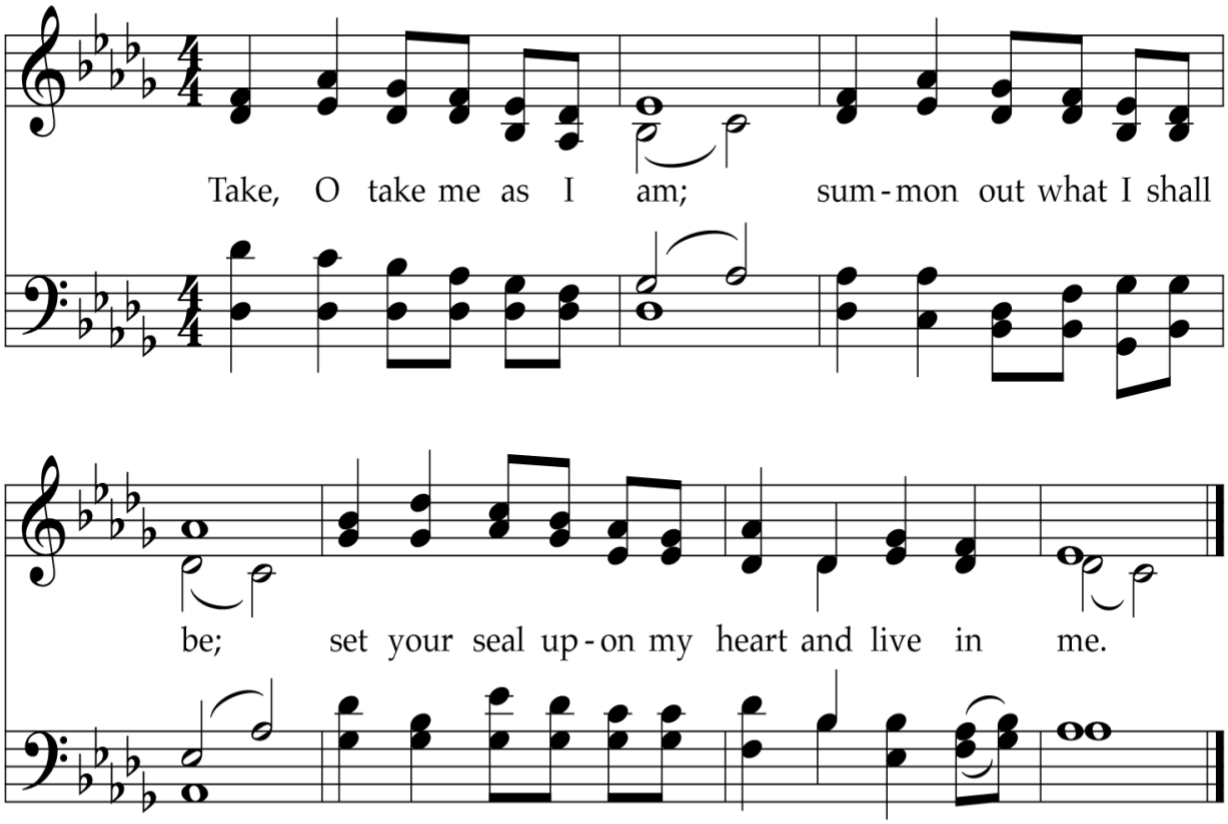
By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

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

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

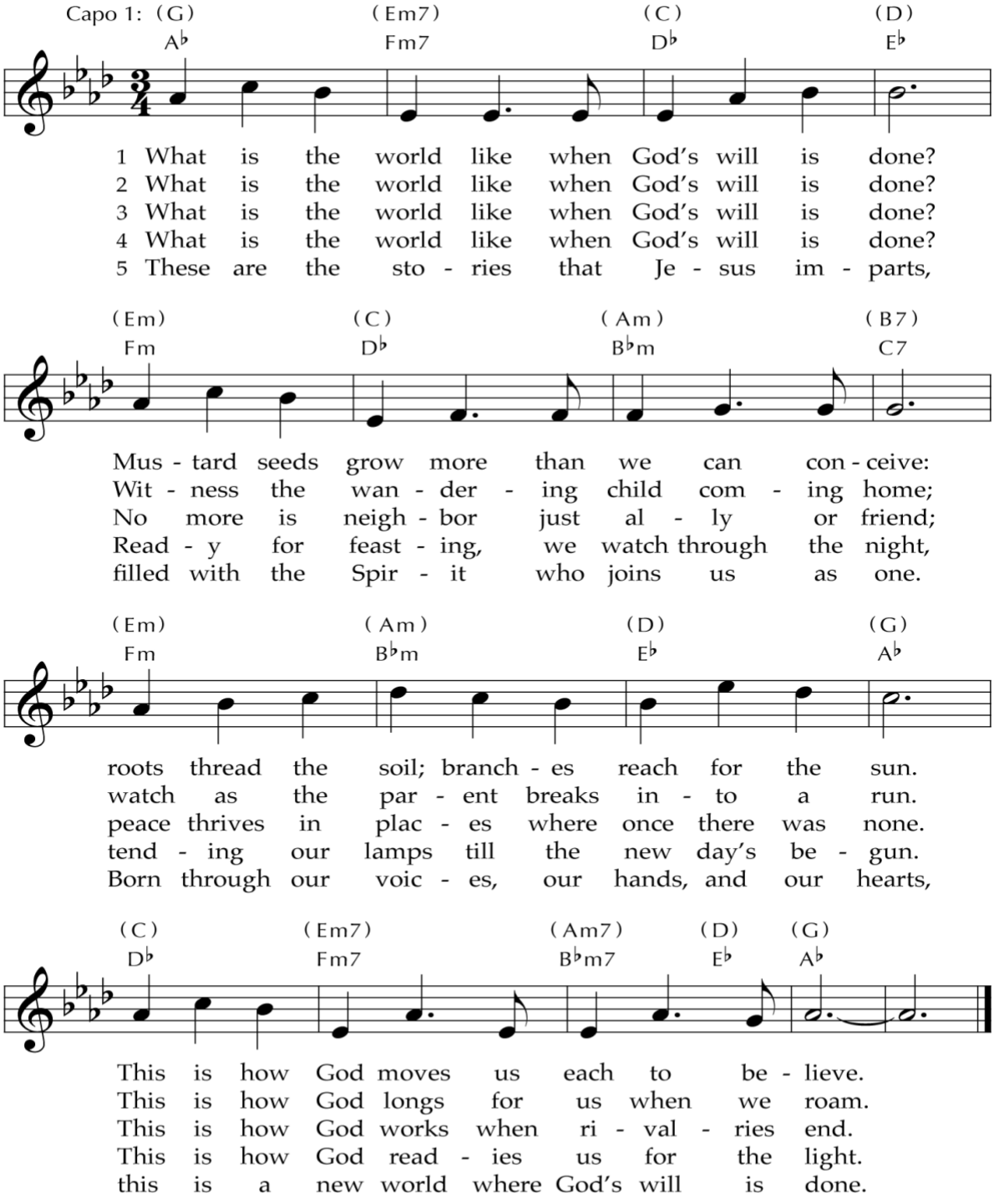


The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
Text and Music © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM
7.7.7.4

What Is the World Like 771



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text and tune were written to conclude a hymn festival at the 2009 Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Four parables framed both the festival and the hymn: the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Ten Bridesmaids.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2009
MUSIC: Sally Ann Morris, 2009
Text and Music © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

NEW WORLD
10.10.10.10

757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples



This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

TEXT: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985
MUSIC: *English County Songs,* 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Text © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael

KINGSFOLD
CMD

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT

366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means "delightful") gives us a foretaste of endless song.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt.

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D