Westminster Presbyterian Church

July 25, 2021
9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Prelude **"***Lord God of Abraham,*" from **Elijah** FELIX MENDELSSOHN
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** **Greg Barbu**
*The * in the liturgy indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

Here in this space,
we do not need to hide or feel alone.
There is no use in filters or walls.
This space is a brave space.
For God invites us to bring our full selves into the room.

So come into this space with your hurt and your joy,
your prayers and your dreams.
All of God's children are welcome here.
God is near. Let us worship Holy God.

***Opening Prayer**

Ever-present God,
Thank you for this holy time set aside each week
to nourish ourselves, to rest our souls, and find our home in you.
You know our hunger for connection and growth,
Our desire for community and hope.
May this be the place where we experience
your Spirit of love and abundance surround us.

May we be filled with curiosity, courage…
May we be opened to ask, "What do I need?"
So we can grow into our full potential as your beloved children.
Amen.

***Opening Hymn No. 399** God Welcomes All THEMBA AMEN

Call to Confession **Linda Barbu**

How many of you have ever had a bad day and found someone offering you unsolicited advice?
How many of you have ever had a bad week and had someone rush in with dozens of suggestions for how you might fix things, as if you hadn't thought of that before?

We have all been there, and we have all done that. It is part of our humanity.
Our scripture reminds us today that often in the face of hurt, what people really need is not a list of advice or solutions, but the simple presence of love.

So let us pray to God today, acknowledging that we are works in progress,
and that relationships always come with mistakes and confession. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession/Truth Telling

Gracious God,
sometimes life feels like cooking with flour—
it looks like it should be easy, but we always make a mess.
This is particularly true when it comes to our relationships.
We so desperately long to say the right thing,
to be the right thing, to find the right solution,
that we overstep the line.

Forgive us for assuming the place you fill.
Forgive us for imagining that we, in all our humanity,
could possibly fix all the hurt in this world.
Give us the grace and the strength to stand by our loved ones
in their moments of need to witness their hurt without trying to fix it.

You are God. We are not. Teach us how to be a friend.
Teach us how to ask, "What do you need?"
Teach us how to point to you.
Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness **Linda Barbu**

Family of faith, no matter how many times you have spoken without listening,
assumed without knowing,
offered without asking,
or rushed without waiting—
you are forgiven.
God knows your desire and your intent.
God knows when we try and miss the mark, and God surrounds us in grace.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Every day is a new day for love.
We are claimed. We are forgiven.
We are invited into relationship.
Thanks be to God for growth and grace that know no end. Amen.

Musical Response "*Adagio*," from Toccata in E flat GEORG MUFFAT

***Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

By Passing of the Peace to each other in worship we recognize that we are part of the Body of Christ reconciled to one another in Jesus Christ. To protect the safety of all, we invite you to engage in this ritual by offering a courtesy bow or showing the sign of peace to those seated immediately next to you.

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

Scripture Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-18

6 As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. **7** I have fought
the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** From now on there is reserved for me the crown
of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to
all who have longed for his appearing.

9 Do your best to come to me soon, **10** for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to
Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. **11** Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring
him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. **12** I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. **13** When you come, bring the
cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. **14** Alexander the
coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. **15** You also must beware of him, for
he strongly opposed our message.

16 At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against
them! **17** But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully
proclaimed, and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. **18** The Lord will rescue
me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Sermon **I've Been Meaning to Ask: What Do You Need?** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**
Part Two: Recognizing Our Own Needs

***Hymn No. 741** Guide My Feet GUIDE MY FEET

Prayer of the People **Greg Barbu**

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. 649** Amazing Grace AMAZING GRACE

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

Postlude *"Zion's Walls,"* from **Old American Songs** TRADITIONAL/arr. AARON COPLAND

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.

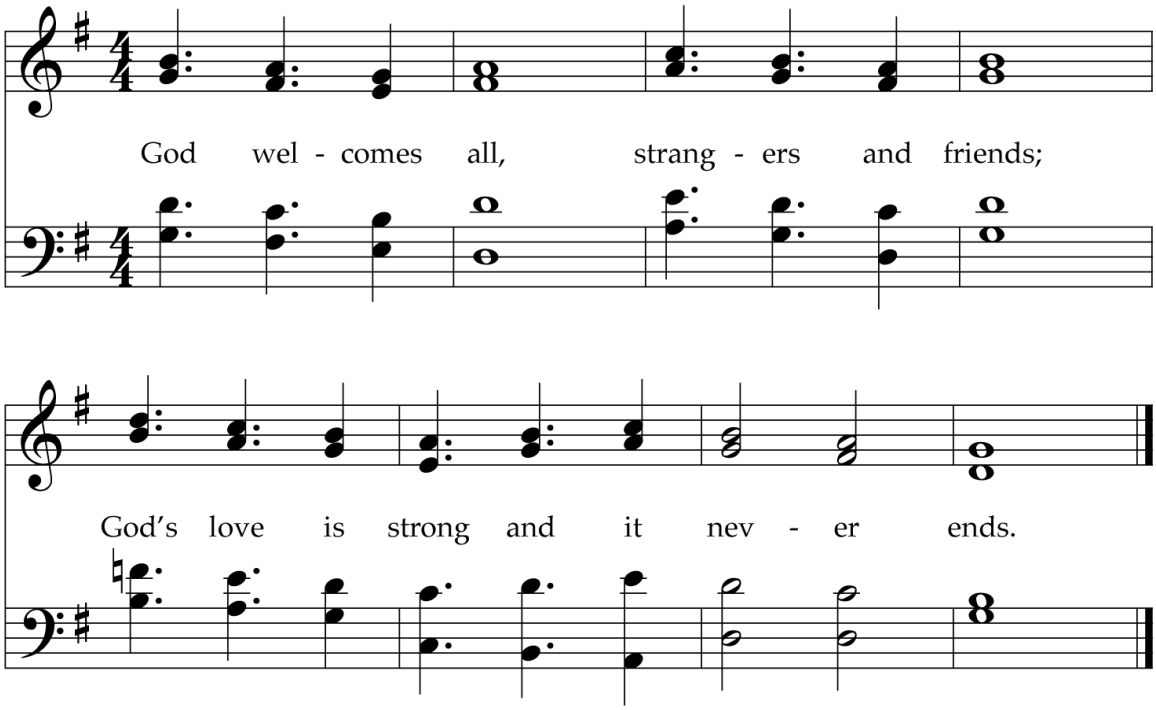
Note: Prayers were adapted from *Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

Music: Ken Shafer – Organ and Piano, Pong Thiemmedh – Drum

Soloist:
MARK HOSSEINI, baritone, is a frequent performer of stage and concert works ranging from the Renaissance and Baroque to the 20th and 21st centuries. Recently, he was seen as a part of the virtual performance troupe Where the Good Songs Go where he performed in premiere recordings of musical comedies by Jerome Kern, Rodgers & Hart, George Gershwin, and Sissle & Blake. He was a winner of the Oakland Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, and he has received four first place awards from the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition. Mark holds a Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music, where he was a recipient of the Renée Fleming Endowed Scholarship, and a Bachelor of Music Degree from Oakland University, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude and was given the Music, Theatre, and Dance Department Award for "Outstanding Student in Voice Performance" upon his graduation.

Sunday Service Assistant is Linda Barbu.
Refreshments provided by Linda Barbu.
Flowers provided by Dorothy Iams.

God Welcomes All 399
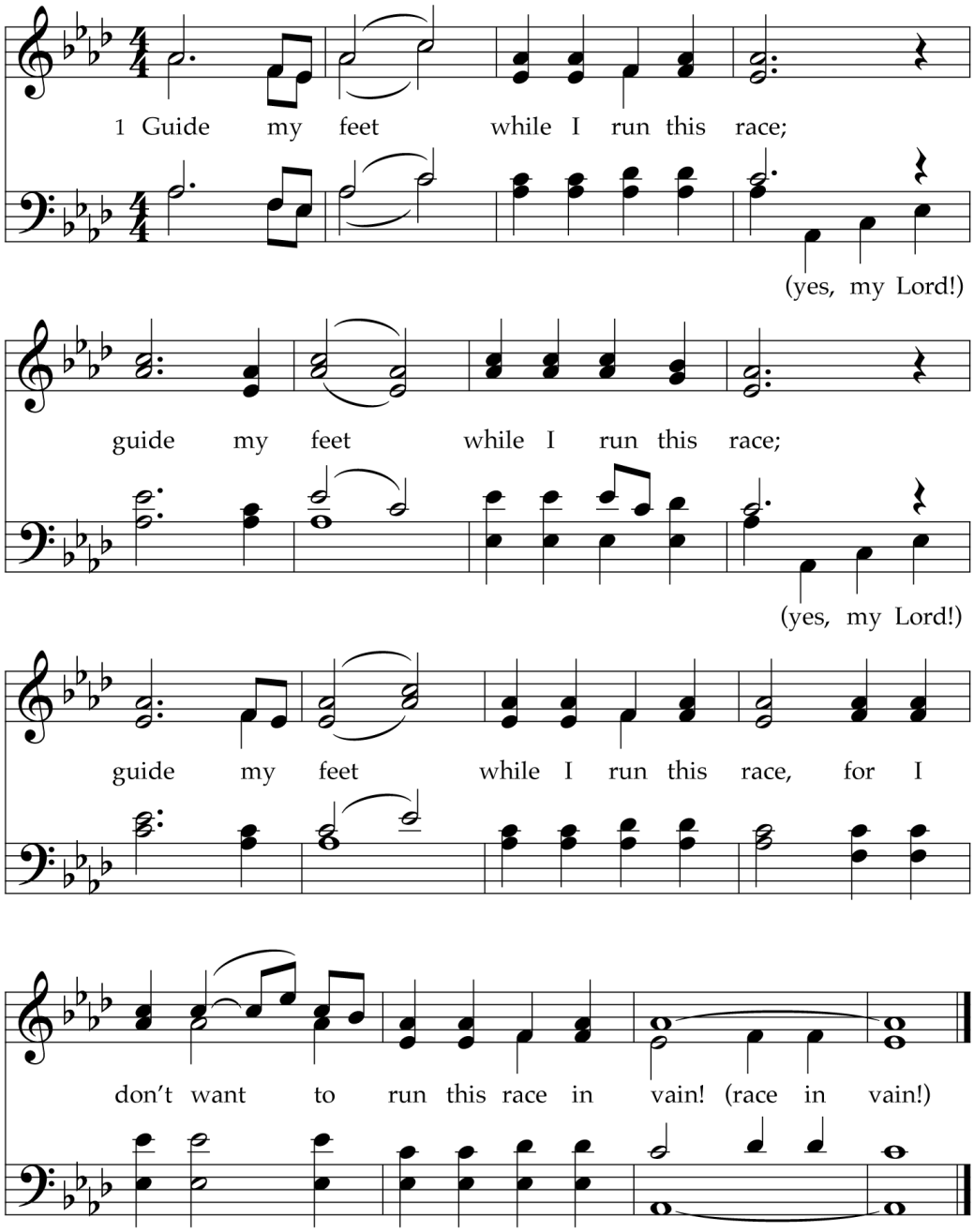


This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008
MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008
Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

THEMBA AMEN
4.4.9

Guide My Feet 741



2 Hold my hand …
3 Stand by me …
4 I'm your child …
5 Search my heart …
6 Guide my feet …
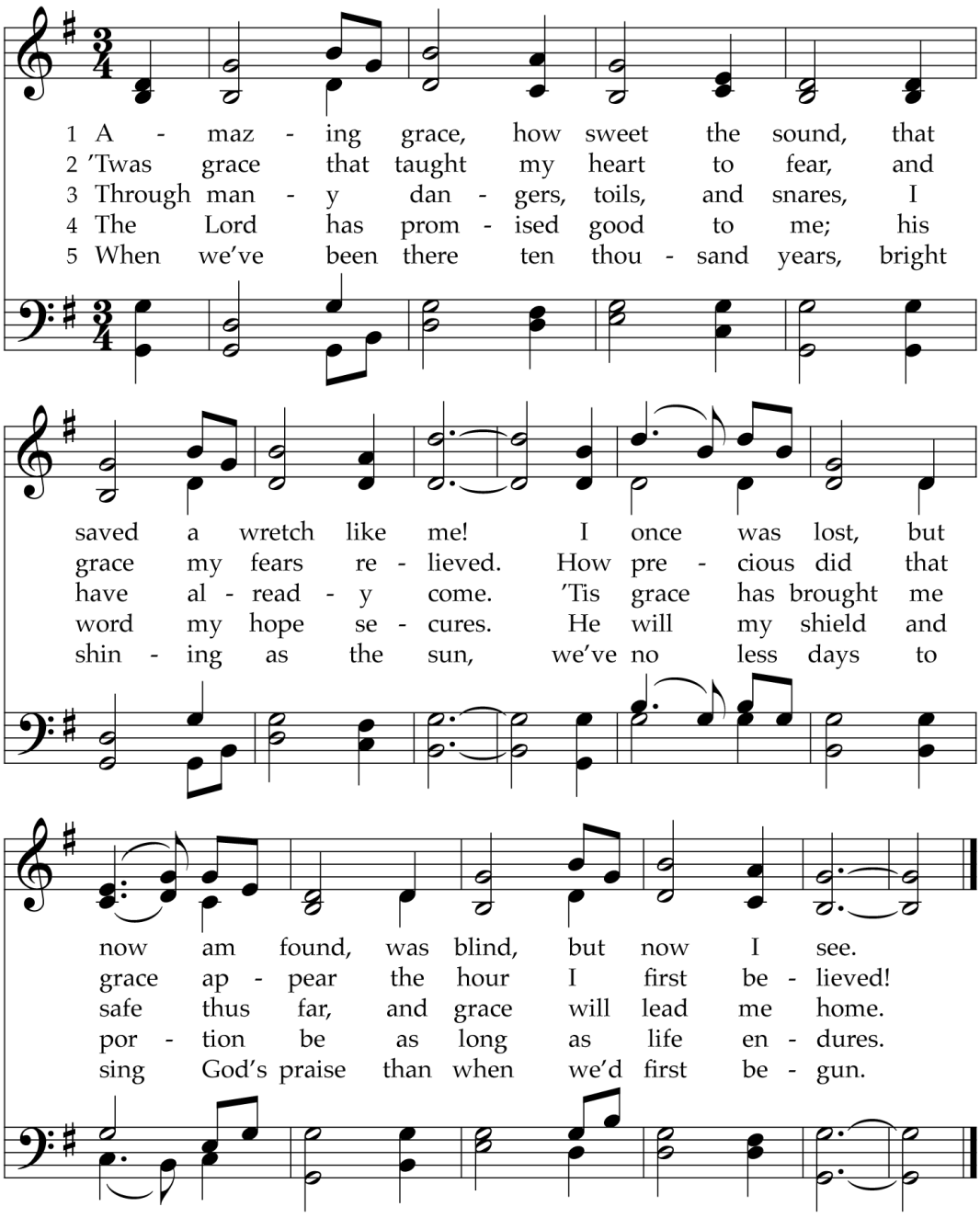
This African American spiritual is based on the imagery of "the race that is set before us" in Hebrews 12:1–2. Its call-and-response structure allows for the improvisation and addition of stanzas related to an athletic metaphor that is as vivid today as it was centuries ago.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; harm. Wendell P. Whalum, c. 1984
Music Harm. © Estate of Wendell P. Whalum

GUIDE MY FEET
8.8.8.10

THANKSGIVING

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



CHOCTAW

Shilombish holitopa ma!
Ishmminti pulla cha
hatak ilbusha pia ha
is pi yukpalashke.

CREEK

Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
ah non ah cha pa kas
cha fee kee o funnan la kus
um e ha ta la yus.

NAVAHO

Nizhónígo joobá diits' a'
yisdáshíítinigíí,
lah yóóiiyá, k'ad
shénáhoosdzin,
doo eesh'íį da ńt'éé.

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads,* 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsosie
MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony,* 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt.
AMAZING GRACE
CM

Text Phonetic Transcr. Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw © Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference;
Phonetic Transcr. Navaho © Albert Tsosie

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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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.