Westminster Presbyterian Church

September 12, 2021
16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Minute for Mission for Immigration Justice Ministry **Barbara Tartir**

Prelude "Valse, from Opus 42" FREDERIC CHOPIN/ARR. BROUGHTON
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** **Jim Bonk**
*The * in the liturgy indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

Listen!
The voice of God cuts through swirling chaos,
It rises above the mists and shadows,
and calls into being something only God could see.
In the beginning, God brought forth good.
Today, in the midst of everything, God brings forth good.
We come to worship the One who created and is creating space for abundant life.

***Opening Prayer**

In the beginning of your story, O God,
wind rushed and waters roared
and your voice echoed
and new life began.
In this new season of our life together,
whatever is rushing and roaring,
may your voice echo in this place,
and may new life begin.
Amen.

***Opening Hymn No. 14** "For the Beauty of the Earth" DIX

Call to Confession **Jim Bonk**

Every week during worship, we take time to confess our sin as individuals and as a community. We acknowledge our constant need for God's mercy and grace to live as God's children knowing that God's forgiveness and love are ready for those who turn to God. So let us come boldly and together confess our sin…

Prayer of Confession/Truth Telling

Creating God, you look at the world and see deeper truths that we ignore.
You see the possibility underneath the disarray,
and we confess that we instead see problems only force can solve.
You see your creation's capacity for continued creativity,
and we confess that we instead see something to exploit.

**You see how pruning and setting boundaries make space for flourishing,
and we confess that we instead see only the loss of our comfortable old unhealthy ways.**

**Forgive us for turning aside from our role as your representatives on earth.
Forgive us, for we who are made in your image do not prefer your pattern of power.
Forgive us when we forget that our goodness is bound up with all the wonders created by your word, which you call good, together.
Renew your image within us that we may reflect your will and your way. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness **Jim Bonk**

Much in the world is broken. Our hearts are broken.
Yet, friends, this is the good news of the gospel:

**God's grace and mercy continue to flow, bringing life, hope, love.
God's beautiful and beloved community lives on.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Musical Response "Hear My Song, O Lord" JAMES SOUTHBRIDGE

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

Scripture Reading Genesis 1:1-2:4 **Jim Bonk**
Eniko Ferenczy
Divine Gbagbo
Sherry Hatter-Miller

1In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, **2**the earth was a formless void and darkness
covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. **3**Then God said, "Let
there be light"; and there was light. **4**And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the
darkness. **5**God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was
morning, the first day.
6And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."
7So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the
dome. And it was so. **8**God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear."
And it was so. **10**God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And
God saw that it was good. **11**Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit
trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. **12**The earth brought forth
vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God
saw that it was good. **13**And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be
for signs and for seasons and for days and years, **15**and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light

upon the earth." And it was so. 16God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. 17God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, 18to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." 21So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. 22God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. 25God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

26Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."
27So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God, God created them;
male and female God created them.

28God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." 29God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. 2And on the seventh day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that God had done. 3So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation.

4These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Sermon **God's Good Creation** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 291 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" SPIRIT

Prayer of the People **Jim Bonk**

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. 749** "Come! Live in the Light! WE ARE CALLED

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

Postlude "Postlude in G" JAMES HOOK
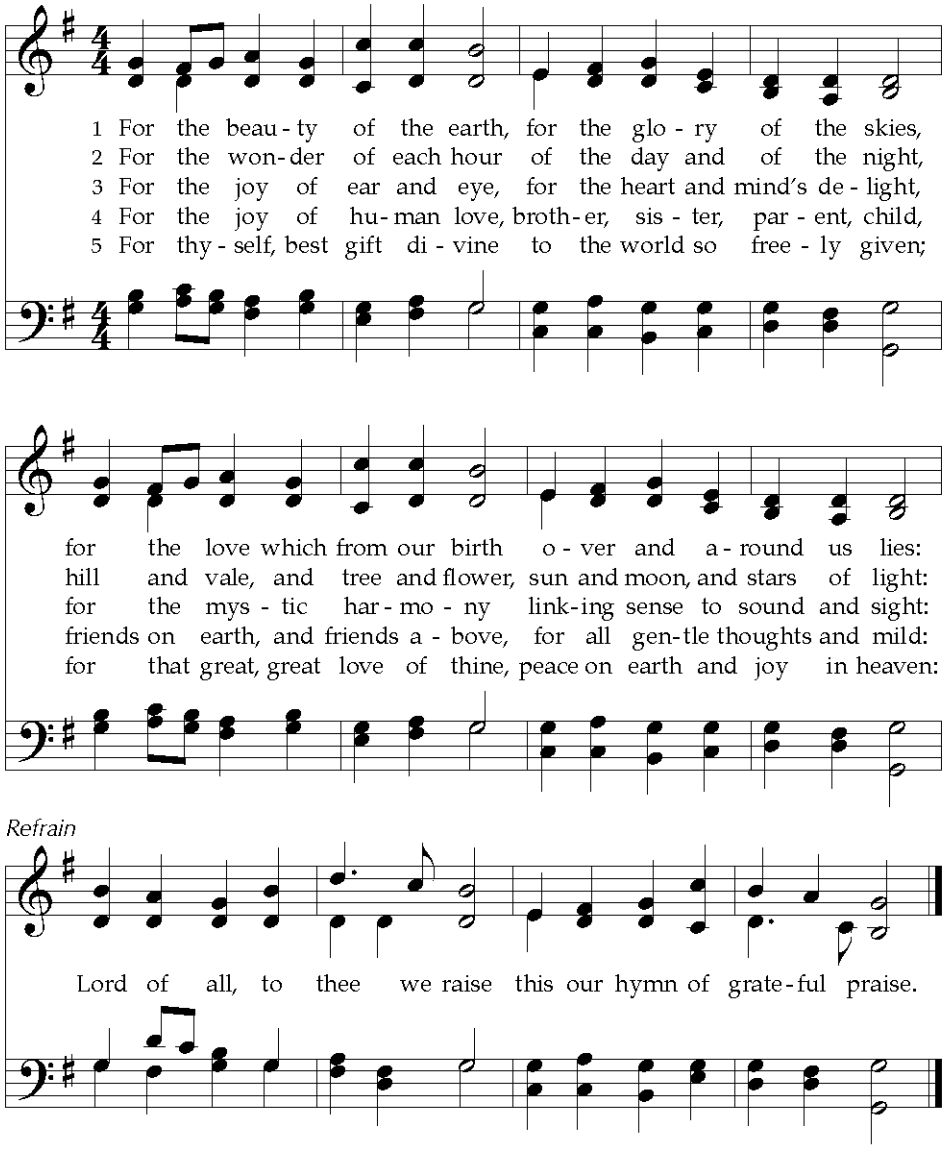
The service continues with refreshments and fellowship.

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: The Gathering Words, Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession were adapted from a liturgy written by Rev. Teri Peterson for *BibleWorm*.

Music:	Piano	Divine Gbagbo
	Piano, Organ	Ken Shafer
AV System Assistant		Greg Barbu
Sunday Service Assistant		Linda Barbu
Refreshments		Linda Barbu
Flowers		Linda Barbu

For the Beauty of the Earth 14
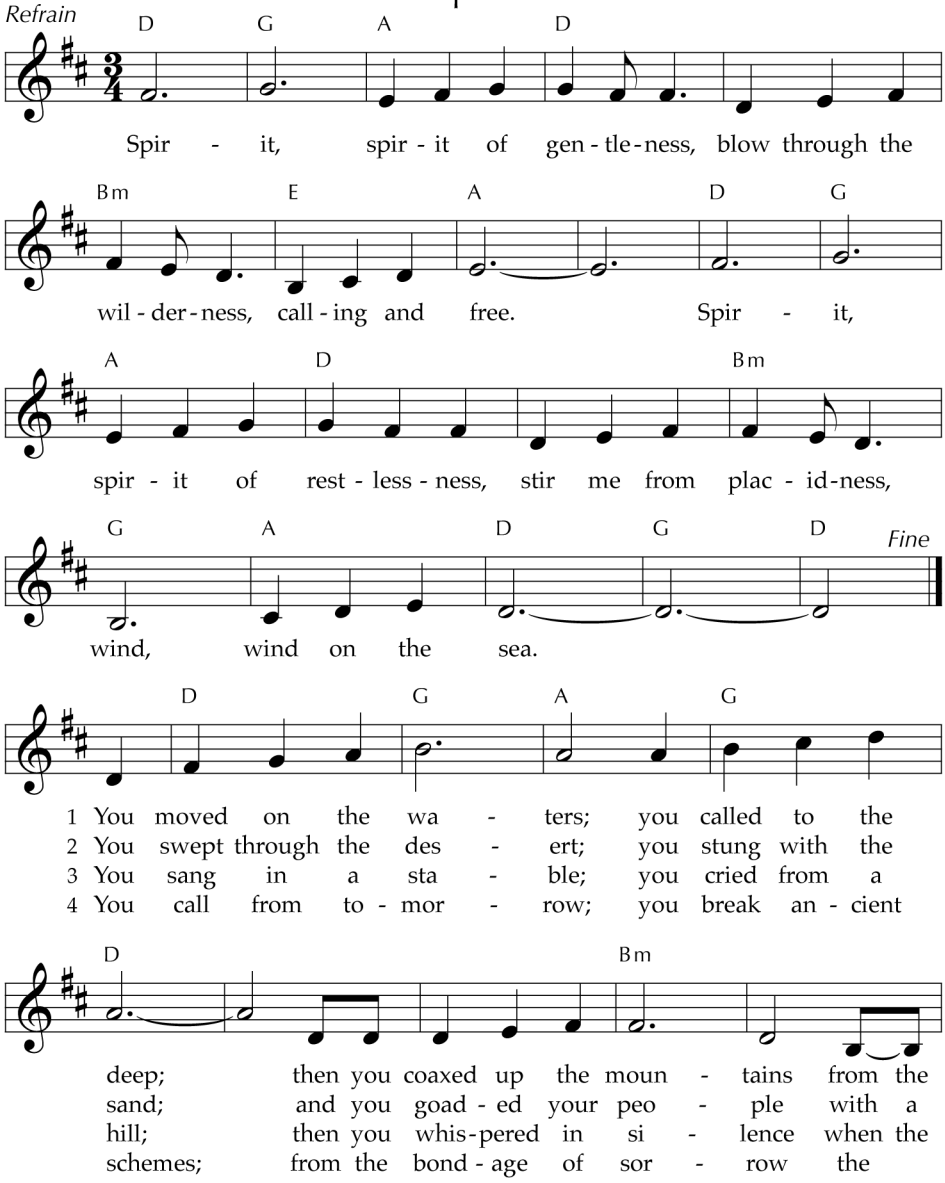


In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

TEXT: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt. DIX
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906 7.7.7.7.7.7

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Spirit
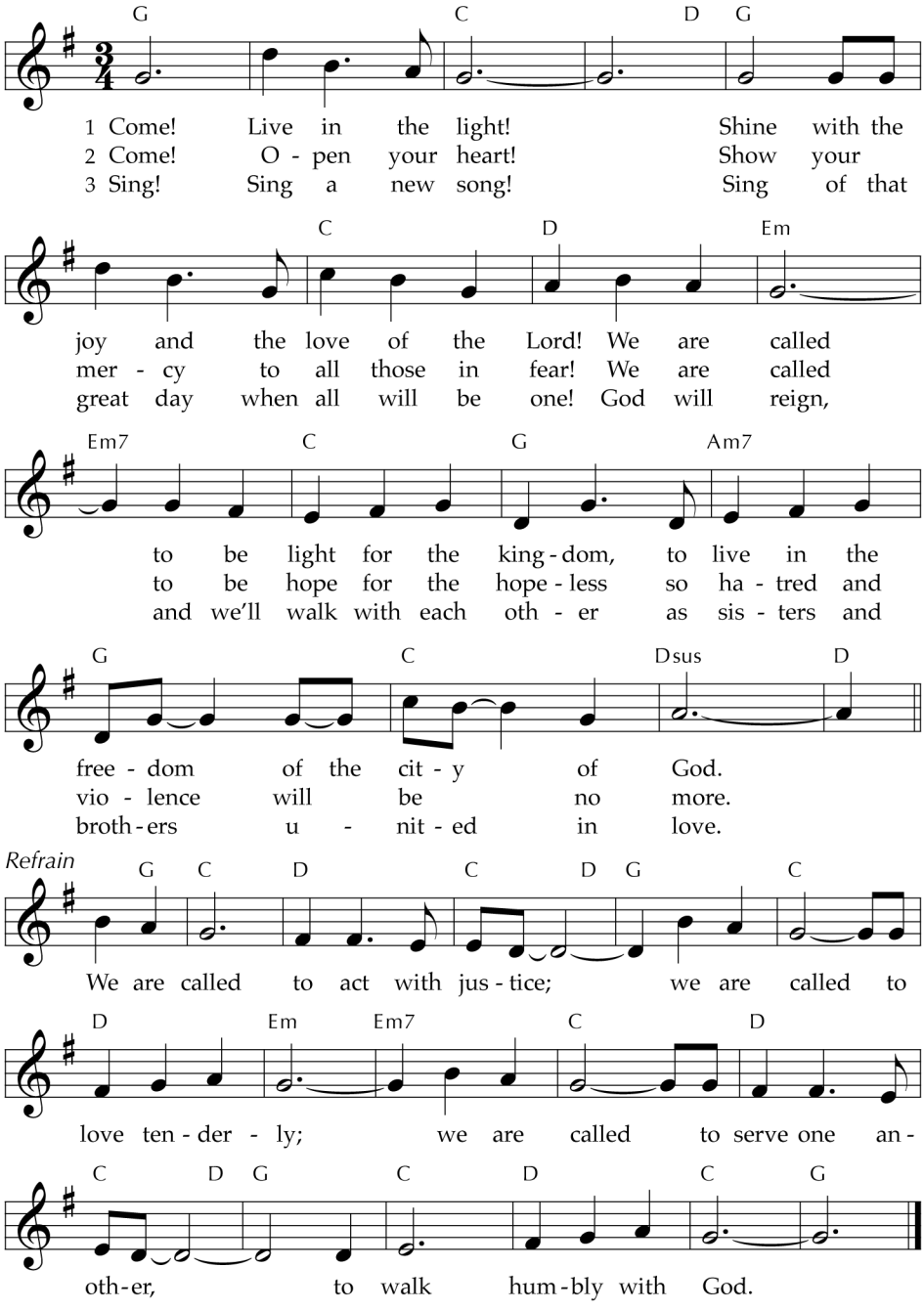


As the author/composer reminds us in the refrain, the Spirit is both gentle and restless. The stanzas reinforce a sense of the Spirit's activity through a wide range of verbs, initially in the past tense; but they become more urgent in the present tense of the fourth stanza.

TEXT: James K. Manley, 1975, alt.
MUSIC: James K. Manley, 1976
Text and Music © 1978 James K. Manley

SPIRIT
Irregular

749 Come! Live in the Light!

We Are Called



The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

TEXT and MUSIC: David Haas, 1988
Text and Music © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.

WE ARE CALLED
Irregular

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.