Westminster
Presbyterian Church

353 E. Pine St., Wooster, OH 44691
330-263-2398 / wpcwooster@gmail.com

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 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.

Minute for Mission for One Great Hour of Sharing **Shelley Peterson**

Prelude **"Novelette"** ***Dmitri Kabalevsky***
Bob Iams, piano

***Gathering Words** **Shelley Peterson**

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

On our worst days and on our best days,
God is good.
When life is consistent and when life turns on its head,
God is good.
Day and night, Monday through Sunday,
God is good. God is here. God is love.
Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer **Shelley Peterson**

Listening God,
If we could attach ourselves to you, we would.
We would scribble your scripture onto our tender hearts.
We would weave your good news into the fiber of our being.
We would bind ourselves to you.

But instead, we wander.
Instead of attaching ourselves to you,
we find ourselves swept up in the business of the day.
Like a seesaw of faithfulness, we move back and forth,
up and down, constantly trying to find you in the midst of it all.

So speak clearly to us now.
Quiet the distractions long enough for us
to affix ourselves to your good news.
We are listening. We are hungry. We are hopeful.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"** ***Nettleton

Call to Confession **Shelley Peterson**

Friends, as we wander with Peter, we realize that even Peter made mistakes.
Peter, who was given the keys to Heaven.
Peter, Jesus' right-hand person, made mistakes just like you and me.
And still, Jesus chose him.

Knowing that, let us speak honestly with God.
For even on our worst days, we belong to God, and that will never change.
Join me in our prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession **Shelley Peterson**

Holy God,
We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense.
Like Peter, we want to yell out, "*This should not happen!*"
We want to control scenarios beyond our reach.
We want to hold your world in our hands.

Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity.
Forgive us for arguing when we could listen.
Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many.

Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen.
With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 698 **"Take, O Take Me as I Am"** ***Take Me as I Am***

Assurance of Forgiveness **Shelley Peterson**

Friends,
no matter how many fights we have wanted to pick with God,
no matter how many times we have disagreed, raged,
or clung to what we know instead of embracing holy change—we worship a God of grace.

Nothing can separate us from God's love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

God's love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine.
We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven.
Therefore, we follow Peter and go to be the Church in the world. Amen.

Musical Offering **"Wayfaring Stranger"** ***American Folk Song***
Dave Schmidt, guitar

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 Reading **Matthew 16:21-23** ***(CEB)*** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer
many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that he had to be killed and

raised on the third day. [22] Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him: "God forbid, Lord! This won't happen to you." [23] But he turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

Sermon **Wandering Heart: "I Am Fixed Upon It"** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 451 **"Open My Eyes, That I May See"** ***Open My Eyes***

Sharing of Joys and Concerns **Shelley Peterson**

Prayer of the people **Shelley Peterson**

We ask these things 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 kin-dom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 726** **"Will You Come and Follow Me"** ***Kelvingrove

Benediction **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Postlude **"Italian Hymn"** ***F. Giaridni, arr. E. Broughton***

(v. 3) Come Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

The service continues with fellowship.

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*Please stand in body or in spirit.
*The prayers were adapted from *Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Bob Iams, piano; Dave Schmidt, guitar
*Sunday service assistant: Shelley Peterson

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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, March 10

- Choir rehearsal – 9 am – Mackey Hall
- Worship Service followed by Annual Congregational Meeting – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place

Monday, March 11

- Scout Troop 61 – 6:30 pm – Mackey Hall

Tuesday, March 12

- Worship Committee Meeting – 1 pm – The Lounge

Wednesday, March 13

- Benevolence Committee Meeting – 2 pm – The Lounge

Thursday, March 7

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place
- Lenten study – 7 pm – The Lounge

Sunday, March 17

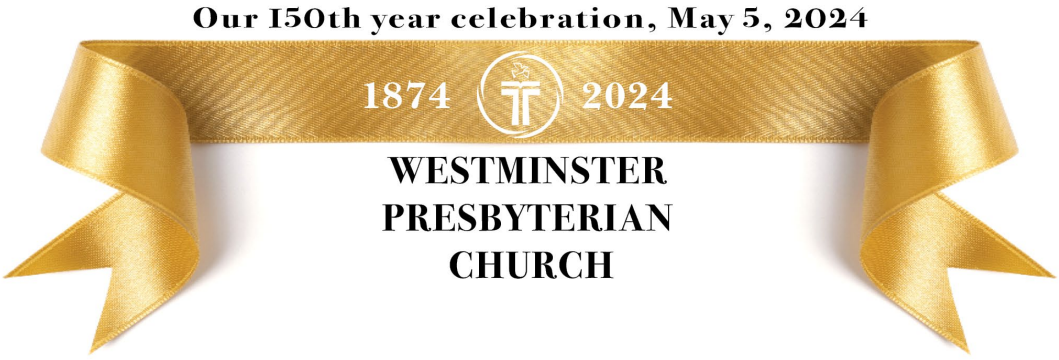
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Westminster Presbyterian Church

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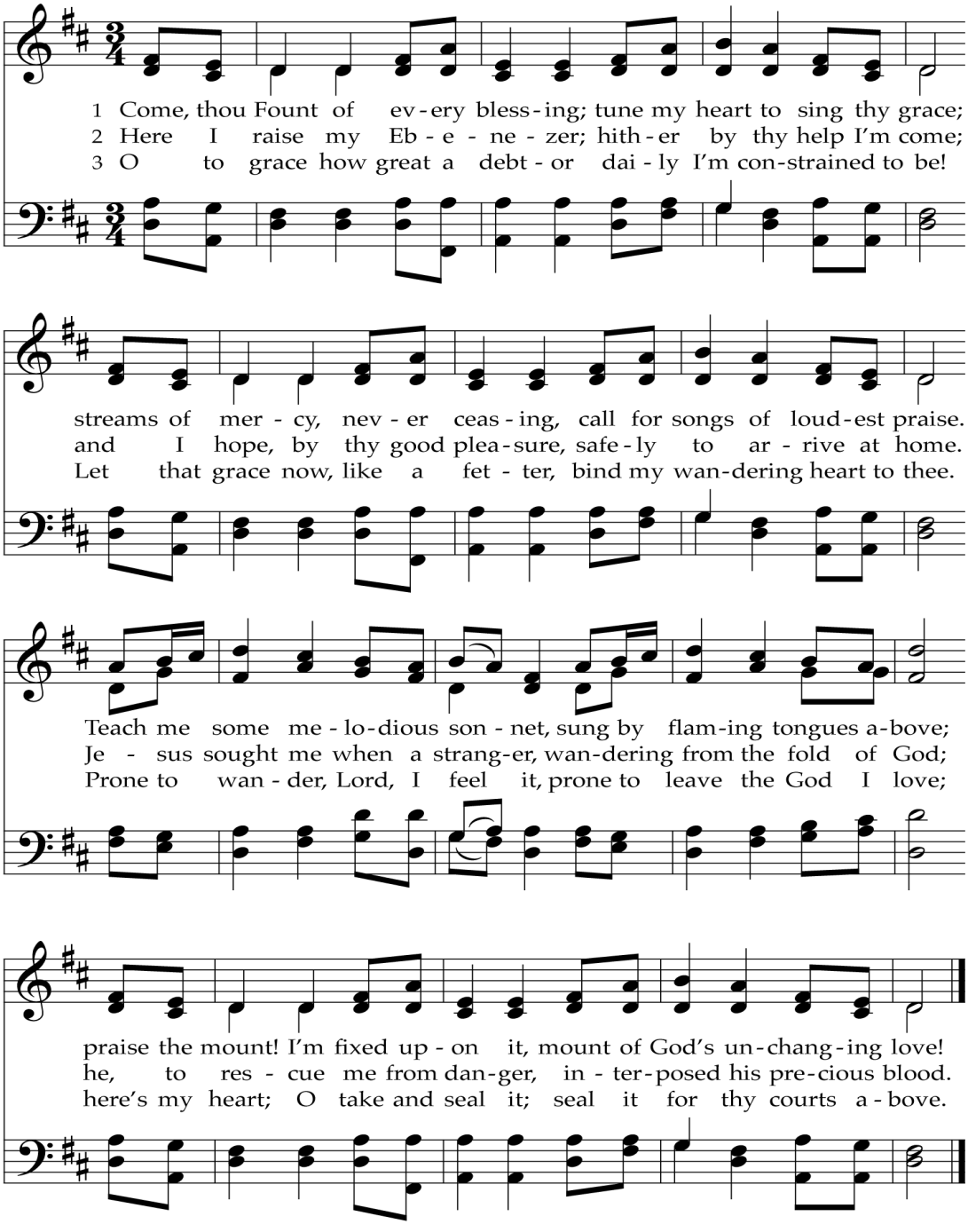
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

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(link to the WPC 150th Anniversary webpage: **https://wpcwoo.org/150)**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



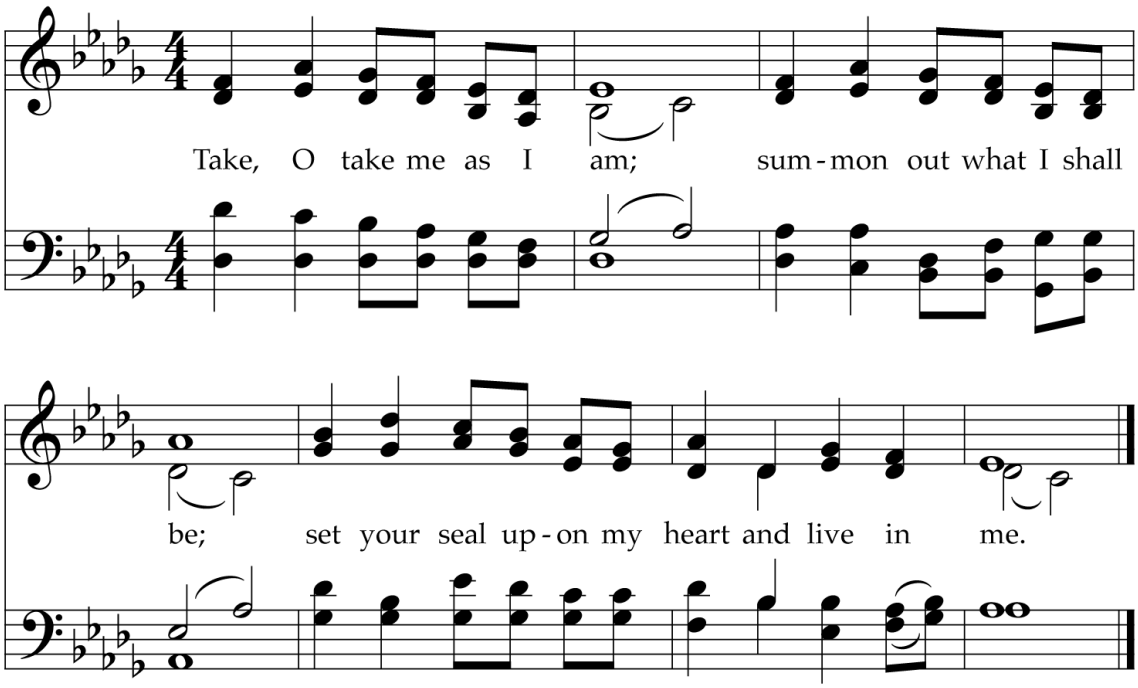
Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

TEXT: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second,* 1813

NETTLETON
8.7.8.7.D

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am
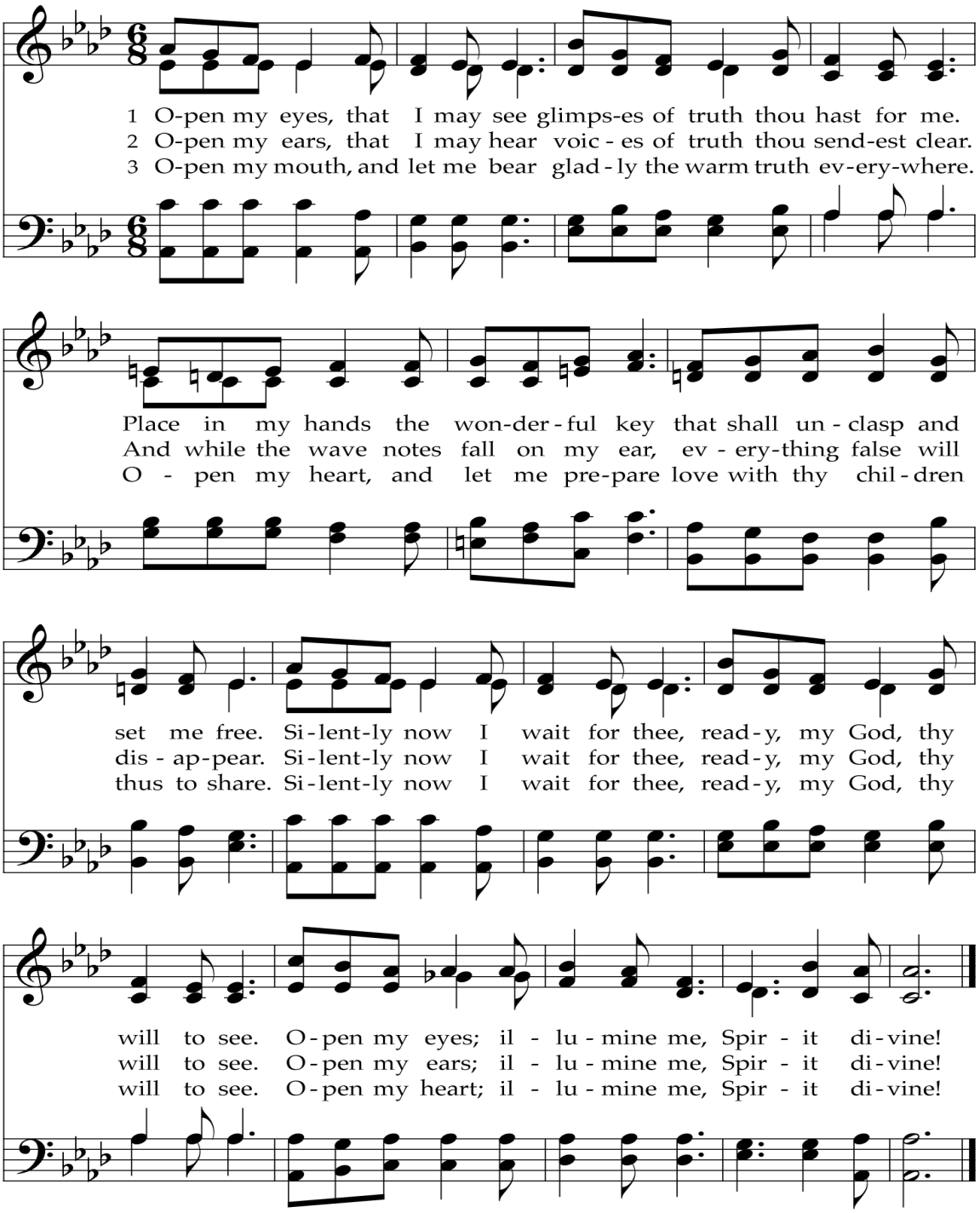


The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

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

Open My Eyes, That I May See 451



The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

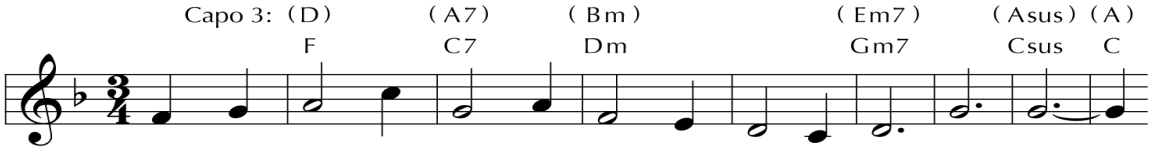
TEXT and MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895

OPEN MY EYES
8.8.9.8.8.8.8.4

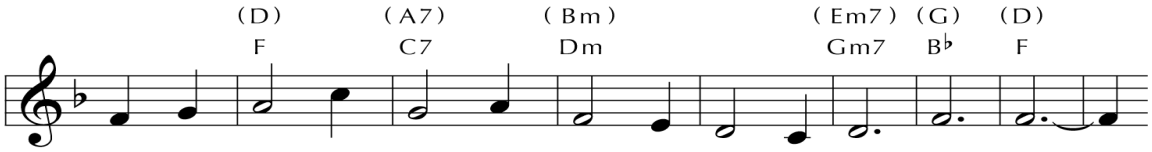
DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

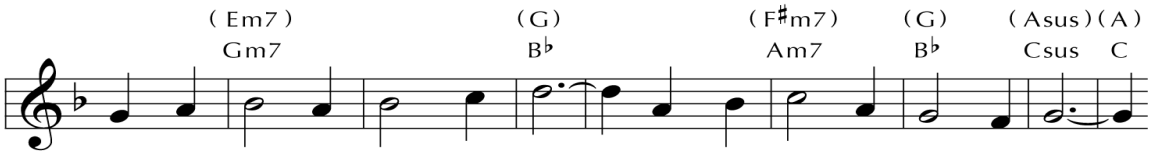
The Summons



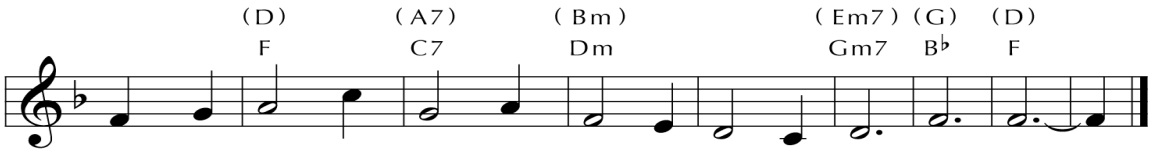
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un-seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
In your com-pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad-mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.

TEXT: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987
MUSIC: Scottish melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1987
KELVINGROVE
13.13.7.7.13
Text and Music Arr. © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)