Westminster Presbyterian Church

October 24, 2021
22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Prelude "In the Service of the Lord" KENN KAFUI

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** **Joel Chupp**

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

God calls each of us —
understanding or confused,

powerful or trembling,
fully focused on the spiritual life or busy with other things,

even those usually overlooked or left out,
every single one of us is called, invited, and needed
for God's purpose to be fulfilled.

***Opening Prayer**

Take hold of us today, O God.
May your Spirit so grip our hearts, and our attention,
that we cannot help but fix our eyes on you.

Wherever you are at work among us this day,
whether it makes sense to us or not,
whether it fits into our understanding of you or not,
make us ready to receive your new word, and act on it.
Amen.

***Opening Hymn No. 401** "Here in This Place" GATHER US IN

Call to Confession **Joel Chupp**

When we least expect it, even when we are not ready, God comes to us, calling us to trust, calling us to follow. So come, let us confess the ways we have strayed from God and one another…

Prayer of Confession **Joel Chupp**

You look on the heart, O God,
and yet we confess that we continue to look mainly on what we can see.
Though we proclaim "judge not,"
we often judge
based on our first impressions.

We say "beauty is on the inside"
while with our next breath
we hold one another to standards created for profit.

We avert our eyes or lock our doors
when we encounter "them"
and we give leadership roles to those who "look the part."

Forgive us, O God, for saying one thing and doing another.
Forgive us when we assume your call is only for some,
and when we insist that power can reside
only in particular kinds of bodies.

Forgive us, and create in us a clean heart,
that we may learn and teach your way. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness **Joel Chupp**

The prophet reminds us of God's promise:
I will remove from your body the heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.

God's grace and mercy cleanses and molds,
fills and transforms us.
May we be clay in the hands of the potter,
becoming God's new creation.

Musical Response "Lento" CESAR FRANCK

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

Scripture Reading 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

16The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." **2**Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said,

"Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' [3]Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."

[4]Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" [5]He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

[6]When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." [7]But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." [8]Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." [9]Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." [10]Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."

[11]Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." [12]He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." [13]Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Sermon **Clay in the Potter's Hand** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

*** Hymn No. 688** "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" MORECAMBE
Verses 1, 2, 4, 5

Sharing of Joys and Concerns **Joel Chupp**

Prayer of the People

With the hope of people who hear God's call, 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. 698** "Take, O Take Me as I Am" THE SERVANT SONG
Sung 4 times

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

Postlude "On Our Way, Rejoicing" LANI SMITH

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.

The Gathering Words were adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson

Music:	Piano	Mary-Marie Deauclaire
	Organ, Drum	Divine Gbagbo
	Organ	Ken Shafer
Tech. Assistant/Event Steward		Tony Mendiola
Refreshments		Sherry Hatter-Miller
Flowers		Sherry Hatter-Miller
Sunday Assistant		Sherry Hatter-Miller
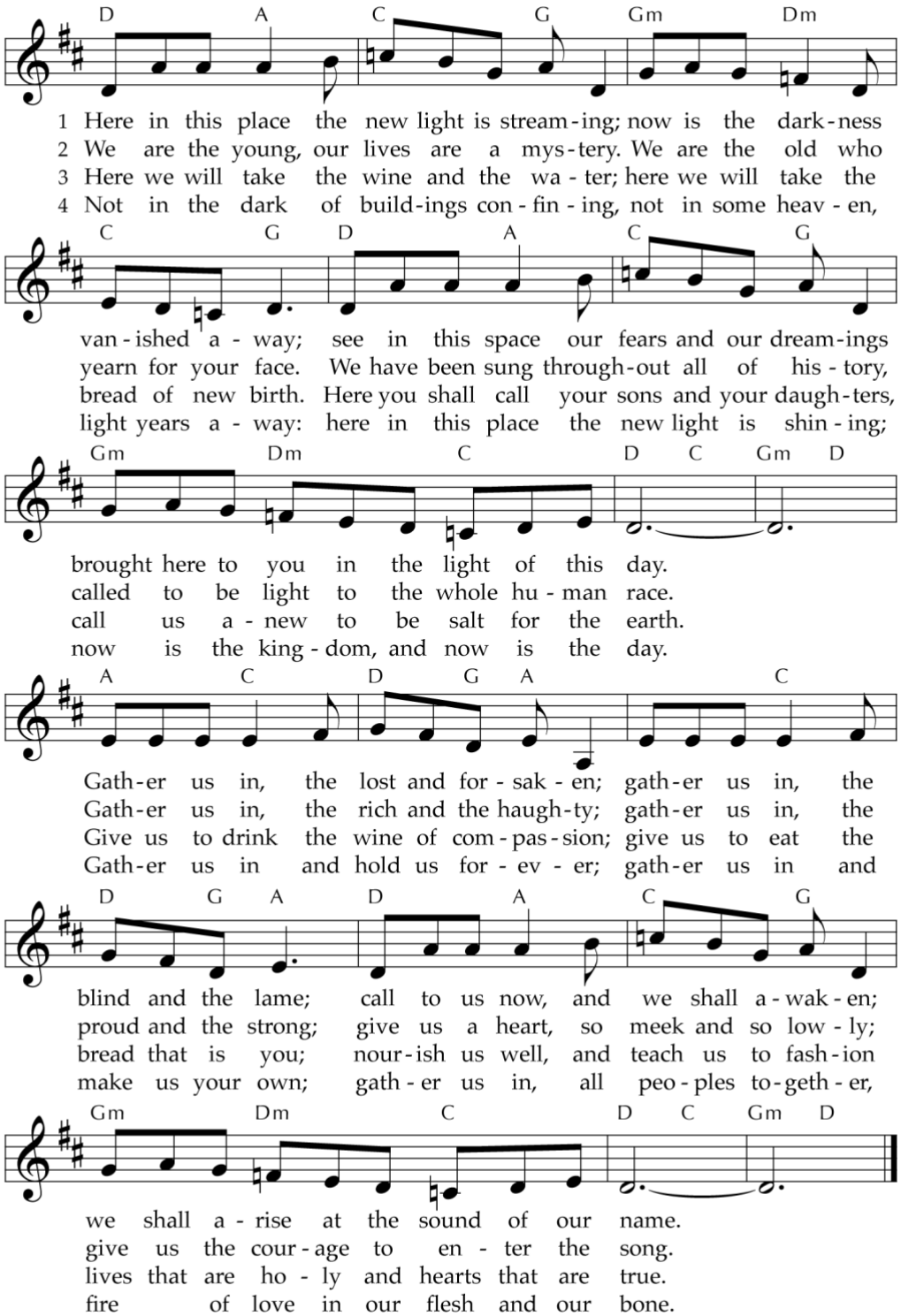
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Office Administrator Judy Mowrer
Minister of Music and Worship Arts Dr. Divine Gbagbo
Worship Accompanists Mary-Marie Deauclaire, Ken Shafer
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola
Custodian Kara Akers

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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.

Here in This Place 401

Gather Us In
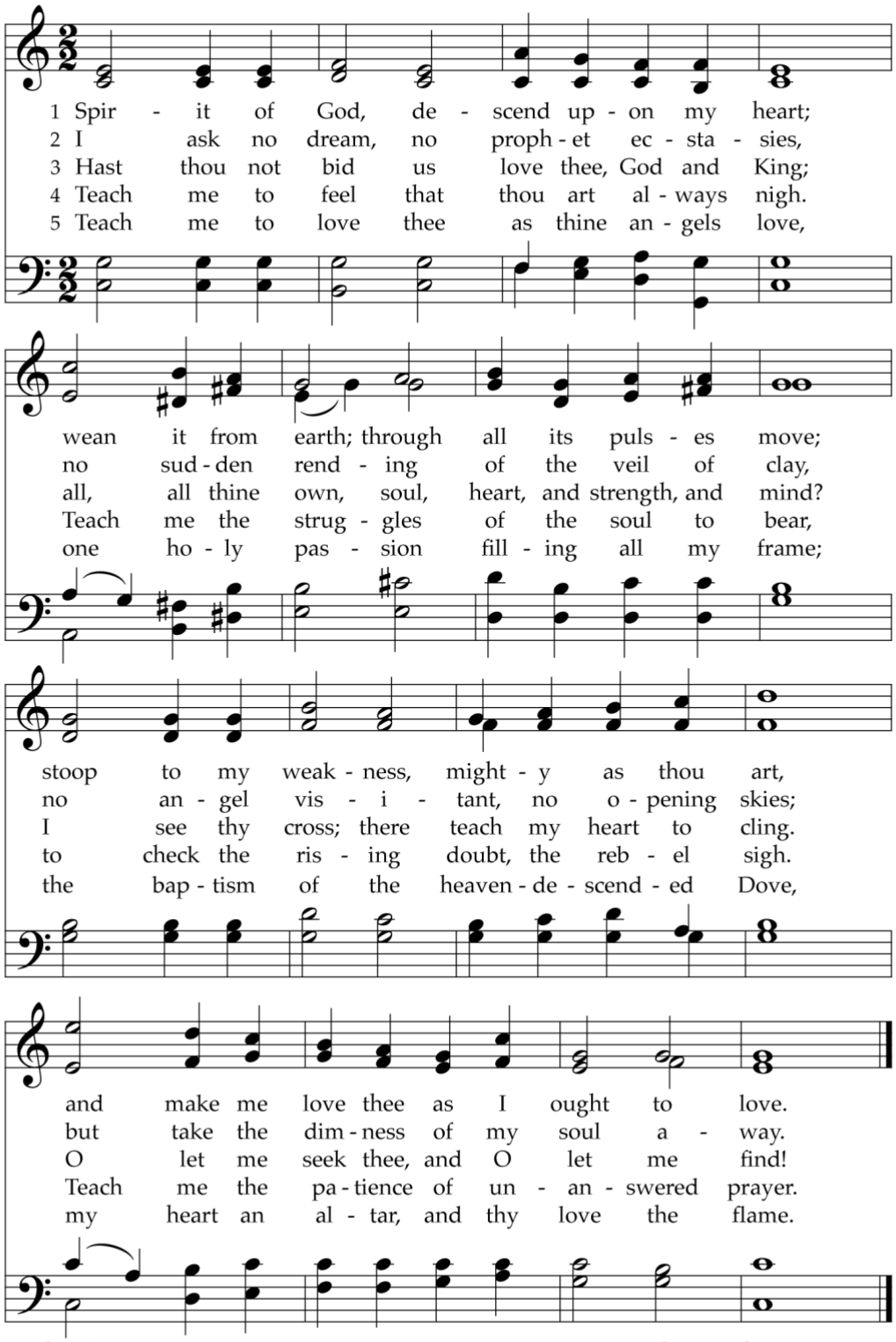


The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

TEXT and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1979
Text and Music © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

GATHER US IN
10.9.10.10.D

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart 688

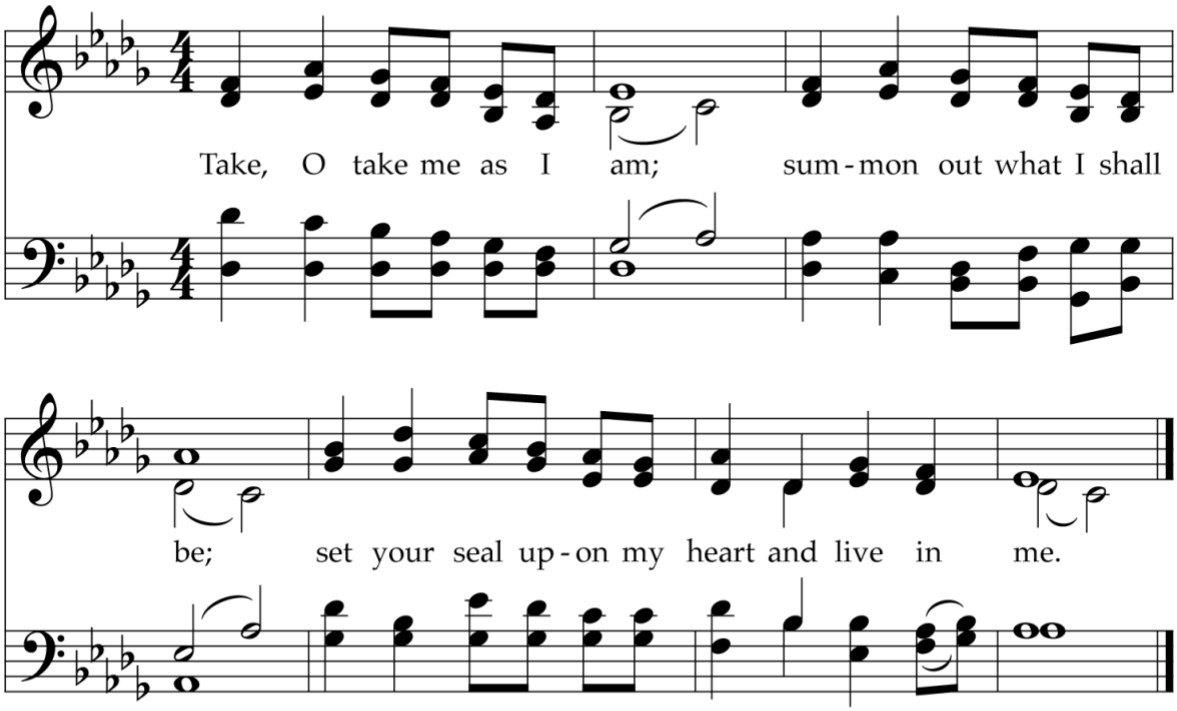


This reflection on Galatians 5:25 was written by a literary Anglican clergyman whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the formerly poorer London churches. The tune was created for "Abide with Me" (no. 836) but more often appears with the present text.

TEXT: George Croly, 1867
MUSIC: Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870

MORECAMBE
10.10.10.10

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