Westminster
Presbyterian Church

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

4th Sunday of Easter
Earth Day Sunday
April 21, 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 the Pentecost Offering **Lemoine Peart**

Prelude **"Knowing You"** **G. Kendrick, arr. G. Parker**

***Gathering Words** **Laura Park**

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

In the name of God, who creates planets,
the name of Jesus Christ, born on planet Earth,
and the name of the Spirit who envelopes our planet.
Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

Christ, we come to into your presence, today,
to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,
Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with your presence.

Opening Prayer **Laura Park**

Let us pray…

God of the universe, we celebrate the song of our planet!
Planet Earth, we celebrate your beauty and your grace,
your special place in our solar system.

We rejoice in your ocean currents as they dance and swirl with hope.
We join in praise with all your fauna and flora as they sing their songs to the Lord.
Planet Earth, enveloped in the breath of God,
Bless all your creatures this day with the life-giving breath of God.
Thank you, God, for the privilege of seeing Earth anew as a gift from you.
Amen

***Opening Hymn No. 664 "Morning Has Broken"** *Bunessan*

Call to Confession **Laura Park**

When we confess our lives, we are calling on God who promises, not only to hear us, but to heal us with forgiveness and hope. Join me, as we pray the responsive prayer of confession…

Prayer of Confession **Laura Park**

Faithful One, we have erred.
We have caused the extinction of species, cultures, and languages.
We have turned our backs to your Goodness and each other.

We continue to err,
ignoring those who hold wisdom about our Earth,
pushing them to fragile places and infertile lands,
sacrificing sustainability for comfort and the future for today.
We assume that everything will adapt,
that nature will right itself,
that we don't have to change.

In our darkness,
help us find courage
to grow in understanding of ourselves,
each other, and our blessed Earth.

In our mistakes,
help us find wisdom
to change our ways and make things right.

In our guilt and fear,
help us find freedom
to live simply, speak bravely, and act justly.

In the name of Christ Jesus we pray.
Amen

Silent Confession

***Musical Response No. 471 "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"** *Hear My Prayer*

***Assurance of Forgiveness** **Laura Park**

In this place we find God's word, God's way,
God's love, God's forgiveness.
what more do we need to sustain us?

In every wilderness, on every road;
in every moment, in every life;
In every journey, in every heart,
we receive the daily bread we need:
God's hope, God's mercy. God's joy.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven.
Amen

***The Peace** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

In God's amazing grace is our only peace. Forgiven once again by grace, let us participate in God's peace together. I invite you to turn to the people to your left and to your right, behind you and before you, and share the peace of God with one another using the greeting:

"The Peace of Christ be with you."
And also with you.

***Hymn** **"Let There Be Peace on Earth"** *Sy Miller*
(from UMC Hymnal)

Musical Offering **"Mystery"** **Paul Winter**
(from "Earth Mass")

Liturgical Dance Interpretation: Debra Kitco, Juli-Douglass Gillespie, Adriana Dryer, Enikö Ferenczy

"Mystery" from "Missa Gaia" by Paul Winter

And it lives in the seed of a tree as it grows.
You can hear it if you listen to the wind as it blows
It's there in the river as it flows into the sea.
It's the sound, in the soul of a man becoming free.

And it lives in the laughter of children at play,
And in the blazing sun, that gives light to the day.
It moves the planets and the stars in the sky.
It's been the mover of mountains, since the beginning of time.

CHORUS
Oh Mystery, you are alive, I feel you all around.
You are the fire in my heart.
You are the holy sound.
You are all of life. It is to you I sing.
Oh, grant that I may feel you, always in everything.

And it lives in the waves as they crash upon the beach.
And in the Gods that man has tried to reach.
I feel it in the love we live for so much.
And I know it in your smile my friend, when our hearts do touch.

And when I listen deep inside, I feel best of all,
Like a moon that's glowing white, I listen to your call.
And I know you will guide me, I feel like the tide,
Rushing to the ocean of my heart that opens wide.

Oh Mystery, you are alive…

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 Readings **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Psalm 104: 10-15 (NRSV)

10 You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, 11 giving drink to
every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst. 12 By the streams the birds of the air have
their habitation; they sing among the branches. 13 From your lofty abode you water the
mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. 14 You cause the grass to grow for
the cattle and plants for people to cultivate, to bring forth food from the earth 15 and wine to
gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine and bread to strengthen the human heart.

Matthew 6: 25-29 (NRSV)

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink,
or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than
clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet
your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you
by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? 28 And why do you worry about
clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell
you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

Celebrating Earth Day Through Poetry **Juli Douglass-Gillespie**

Hymn No. 713 **"Touch the Earth Lightly"** *Tenderness*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns Laura Park

Prayer of the People Laura Park

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 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. 36** **"For the Fruit of All Creation"** *Ar Hyd Y Nos*

Benediction **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Postlude **"Postlude on 'Lauda Anima'"** **arr. R. Williamson**

Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

The service continues with fellowship.

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*Please stand in body or in spirit.
*Gathering Words and Opening Prayer adapted from "Season of Creation: Liturgy for Planet Earth Sunday"; Prayer of the People adapted from 2023 Earth Day Sunday; Presbyterian Mission, Sowing Seeds; Prayer of Confession: Adapted from Kairos Canada's Worship in Celebration of Earth Sunday (April 22, 2012); Call to Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness: Thom Shuman

*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Bob Iams, piano

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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.

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, April 21

- **Earth Day Sunday**
- Choir rehearsal – 9 am – Mackey Hall
- Worship Service with liturgical dance – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place
- Earth Day clean-up around the Church House following worship

Monday, April 22

- **Earth Day**
- Scout Troop 61 – 6:30 pm – Mackey Hall

Thursday, April 24

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place

Sunday, April 28

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

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

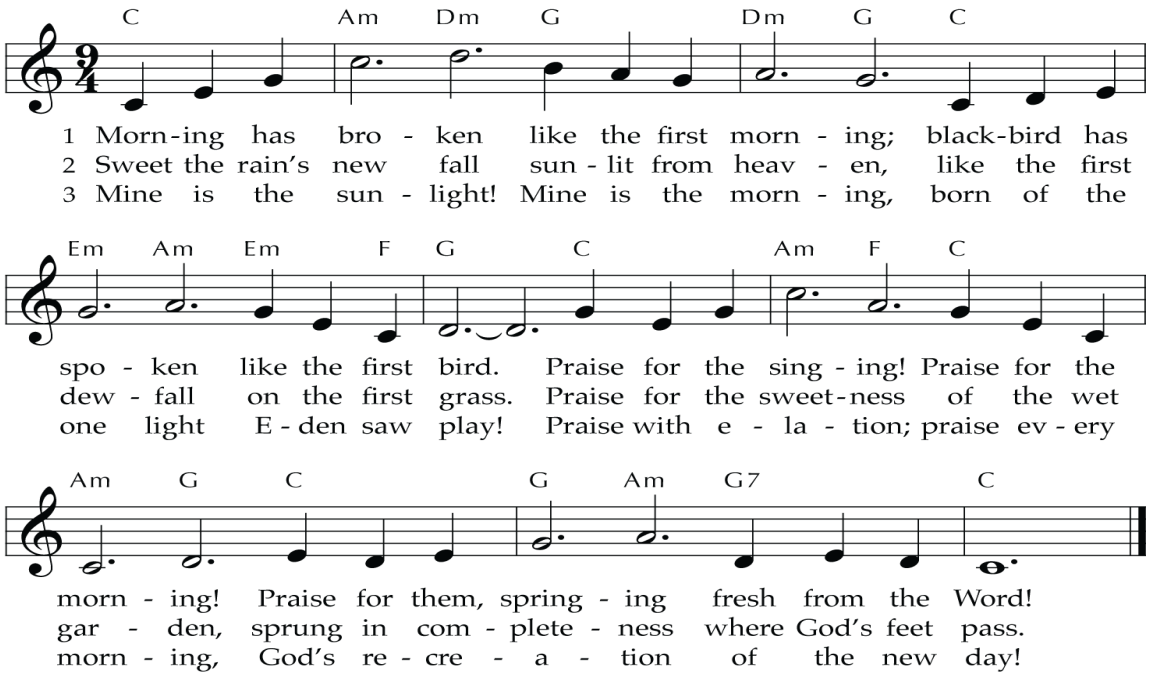
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

wpcwooster@gmail.com: 330.263.2398
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(link to the WPC 150th Anniversary webpage: **https://wpcwoo.org/150)**

Morning Has Broken 664



This 20th-century text was created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of "new" and "first," each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.

TEXT: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931, alt.
MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Beverly A. Howard, 2012
Text © David Higham Assoc., Ltd.
Music Arr. © 2012 Beverly A. Howard

BUNESSAN
5.5.5.4.D

O Lord, Hear My Prayer 471

The Lord Is My Song



This chant from the Taizé Community in France is provided with two sets of words, either of which can be used as best suits the occasion. The first text is based on Psalm 102:1–2, and the second is an amalgam of phrases drawn from Psalms 118:14, 25:5, 36:9, and John 4:14.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1982, 1991
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982
Text and Music © 1982 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

SANCTIFYING AND PERFECTING GRACE

431 Let There Be Peace on Earth



Original words: With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

WORDS: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson
MUSIC: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1987

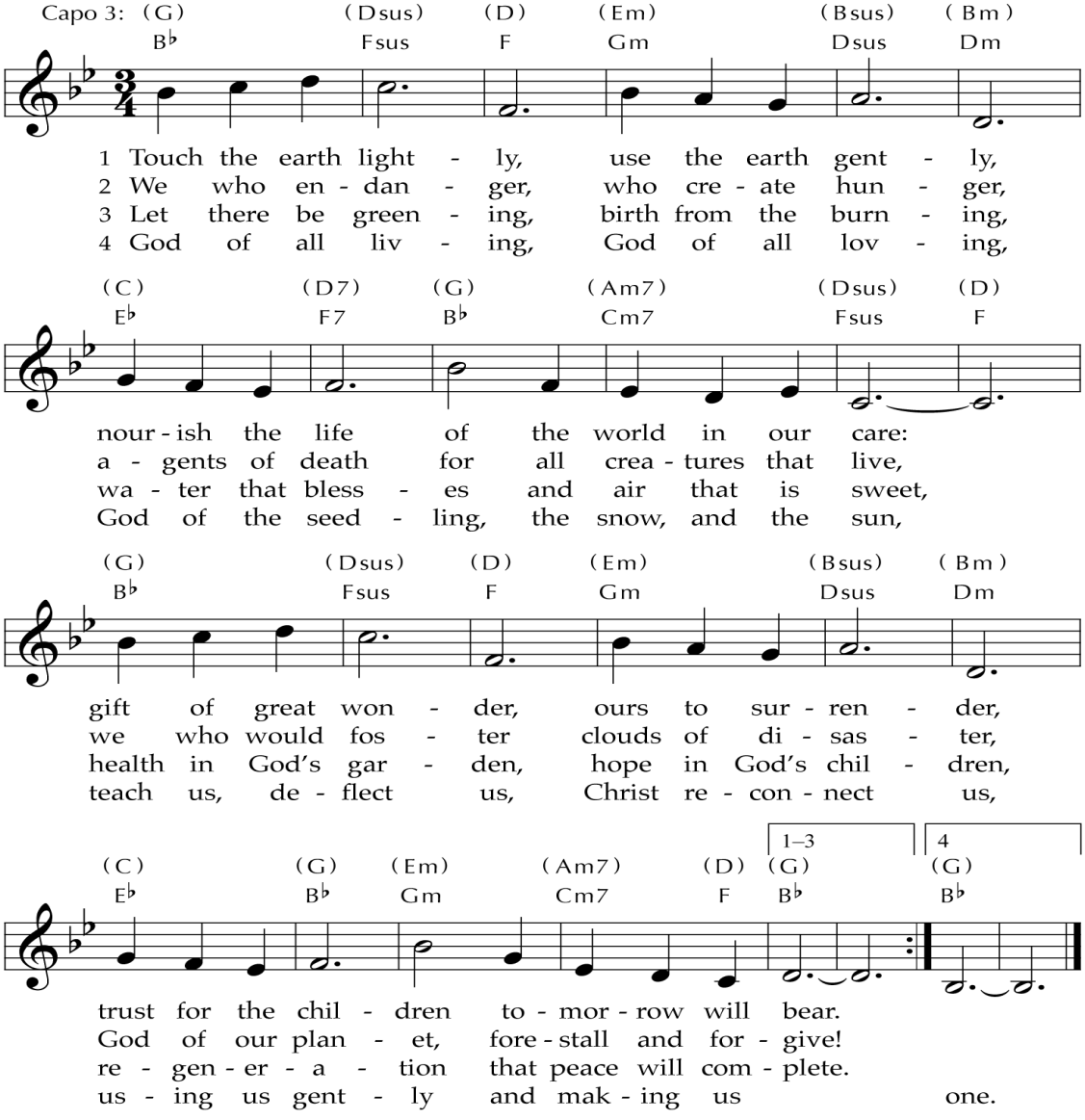
WORLD PEACE
Irr.

© 1955. Assigned to Jan-Lee Music, © renewed 1983


Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment
now. With ev - ery step I take, let
this be my sol - emn vow: to take each mo-ment and
live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

713 Touch the Earth Lightly



An Australian aboriginal saying opens this gentle hymn from New Zealand on the stewardship of creation. "Clouds of disaster" in the second stanza refers to the testing of nuclear devices then occurring in the Pacific Ocean, but the concern for all created things is timeless.

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1991
MUSIC: Colin Gibson, 1992
Text and Music © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

TENDERNESS
5.5.10.D

For the Fruit of All Creation 36



Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1970, alt.
MUSIC: Welsh melody, c. 1784
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company

AR HYD Y NOS
8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4