Westminster
Presbyterian Church

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Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 28, 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.

Prelude **"Prelude"** ***(from Op. 8, nr. 6)*** ***F. Chopin***
Bob Iams, piano

***Gathering Words** **Joshua Amimo**

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

Sometimes the world feels so complicated.
Sometimes everywhere we look, we feel afraid.
Yet, Christ meets us again and again.
Right where we are, close to home or in a foreign land.
Just as we are, living the good life or barely managing,
to insiders and outsiders, he comes.
With power and purpose, Christ comes to meet us here.
Let us come and meet him too.

Opening Prayer **Joshua Amimo**

Turn us today toward your power of life, O God!
Whatever pulls us away,
whatever traps us in the shadow of death,
whatever we are trying to push away and pretend there's nothing to see,
turn us to face it with you.

With the power of your holy name,
speak into our community and show us what abundant life looks like here in this place.
We ask in the name of Jesus the Christ whose voice changes lives.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 456 "Listen, God Is Calling"** ***Neno Lake Mungu

Call to Confession **Erica Ewing**

When we look at the relationships we hope to have with one another and with God,
we must admit how broken we are.
But, as we gather in the presence of God,
we are promised forgiveness and healing, if we will confess our sins.
Please join me, as we pray to the One who never ceases to love us …

Prayer of Confession **Erica Ewing**

You know how stubborn we can be, Holy God.
You would send us to where the hopeless live,
but we are reluctant to leave the comfort of our complacency.
You would feed us on the peace and joy and power of your word,
but we pull our chairs up to the tables of those who serve false promises.

Forgive us, Guiding God. Transform our defiance into discipleship.
Give us courage to speak up and challenge all that shackles us to the ways of death.
Teach us to be the community and people of faith who practice welcome,
loving faithfully as you have always loved us, proclaiming
the good news of Jesus Christ to everyone we meet.

Silent Confession

Musical Response **"Through It All" *(instrumental)*** ***Andraé Crouch***

Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God
Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to depend upon God's word.

Assurance of Forgiveness **Erica Ewing**

We open our lips and confess our hearts.
God hears our words and make us new,
sending us out to bring hope and joy to all the world.

We hear the good news, we believe the good news,
we will live out the good news.
Thanks be to God. Amen!

Musical Offering **"Aria"** ***J. S. Bach. arr. A. Foote***
Bob Iams, piano

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 **Mark 5:1-20** ***(CEB translation)*** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

5 Jesus and his disciples came to the other side of the lake, to the region of the Gerasenes. [2] As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out of the tombs.
[3] This man lived among the tombs, and no one was ever strong enough to restrain him, even with a chain. [4] He had been secured many times with leg irons and chains, but he broke the chains and smashed the leg irons. No one was tough enough to control him. [5] Night and day in the tombs and the hills, he would howl and cut himself with stones. [6] When he saw Jesus from far away, he ran and knelt before him, [7] shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!"

[8] He said this because Jesus had already commanded him, "Unclean spirit, come out of the man!"
[9] Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He responded, "Legion is my name, because we are many." [10] They pleaded with Jesus not to send them out of that region.

11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside. 12 “Send us into the pigs!” they begged. “Let
us go into the pigs!” 13 Jesus gave them permission, so the unclean spirits left the man and went
into the pigs. Then the herd of about two thousand pigs rushed down the cliff into the lake
and drowned.

14 Those who tended the pigs ran away and told the story in the city and in the countryside.
People came to see what had happened. 15 They came to Jesus and saw the man who used to be
demon-possessed. They saw the very man who had been filled with many demons sitting
there fully dressed and completely sane, and they were filled with awe. 16 Those who had
actually seen what had happened to the demon-possessed man told the others about the pigs.
17 Then they pleaded with Jesus to leave their region.

18 While he was climbing into the boat, the one who had been demon-possessed pleaded with
Jesus to let him come along as one of his disciples. 19 But Jesus wouldn’t allow it. “Go home to
your own people,” Jesus said, “and tell them what the Lord has done for you and how he has
shown you mercy.” 20 The man went away and began to proclaim in the Ten Cities all that
Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed.

Sermon **When We Name the Demons** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 793 **“O Christ, the Healer”** ***Erhalt Uns, Herr***

Sharing of Joys and Concerns **Joshua Amimo and Erica Ewing**

Prayer of the People **Erica Ewing**

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. 748** **"Go with Us, Lord"** ***Tallis' Canon

Benediction **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Postlude **"Built on This Rock"** ***G. M. Martin***

We are God's house of living stones, built for God's own habitation
God fills our hearts, God's humble throne, granting us life and salvation
calling the young and old to rest, calling the souls of those distressed
longing for life everlasting

The service continues with fellowship.

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*The Gathering Words and Opening Prayer were adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson.
The Prayer of Confession was adapted from Rev. Thom Shuman.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Bob Iams, piano
*Sunday Service assistant/flowers: Tim Mendiola

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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, Jan. 28

- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place

Monday, Jan. 29

- Scout Troop 61 – 6:30 pm – Mackey Hall
- Dinner served by WPC at Severe Weather Shelter – 6.30 pm

Thursday, Feb. 1

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place

Sunday, Feb. 4

- Choir Rehearsal – 9 am - Mackey Hall
- Worship Service with Communion: Scout Sunday – 10 am – Mackey Hall
  - Launch of the WPC 150th Anniversary Mission Project
- 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.

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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.

Listen, God Is Calling 456

Neno lake Mungu



This anonymous Swahili hymn from Kenya follows a pattern of traditional African music (refrain, call-and-response stanzas, refrain) also common in African American spirituals. This text affirms that God's inviting and forgiving call can still be heard through the written Word.

TEXT: Kenyan; trans. Howard S. Olson, 1987
MUSIC: Kenyan; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1987
English Trans. © 1987 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira (admin. Augsburg Fortress)
Music Arr. © 1987 Austin C. Lovelace (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

NENO LAKE MUNGU
6.4.6.4 with refrain

LAMENT AND LONGING FOR HEALING

793 O Christ, the Healer



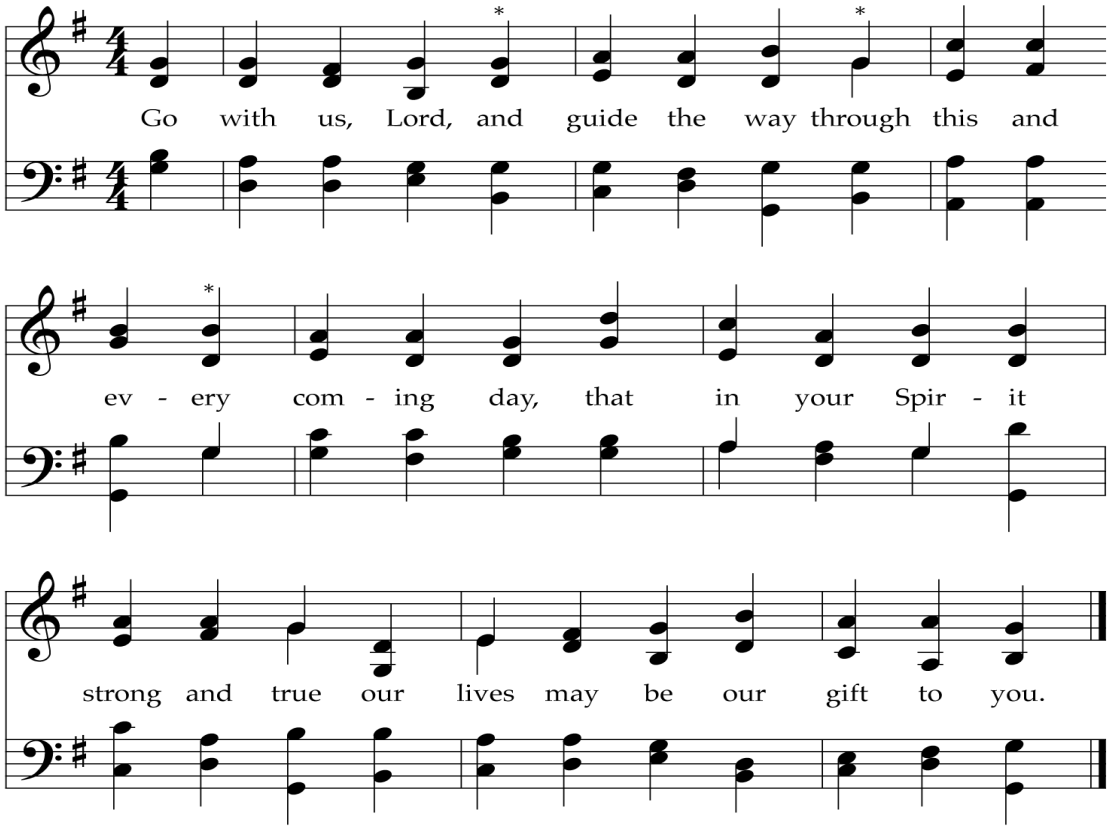
Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit considers not only the infirmities of individuals but also those of localities, societies, and nations. In the midst of such widespread need, worshiping communities are called to continue Christ's healing work in the world.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1967, alt.
MUSIC: Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1725
Text © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

ERHALT UNS, HERR
LM

Go with Us, Lord 748



**May be sung as a canon.*

This very accessible sung prayer was created by the director of children's ministry at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, for use by their children's choir, but it is suitable for people of all ages. The familiar tune makes it easy to learn and to memorize.

TEXT: Mary Jackson Cathey, 1986
MUSIC: Thomas Tallis; adapt. Parker's *Whole Psalter,* c. 1561
Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

TALLIS' CANON
LM