Westminster
Presbyterian Church

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Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 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.

Prelude **"There's a New Song Ringin'"** ***Michael Barrett***
Westminster Choir

***Gathering Words** **Ferenc Relle**

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

Listen!
What are we meant to hear?
Stories of how God works …
in seeds and soil,
in the darkness of the earth,
in the unexpected consequences of growth,
in people whose methods surprise us.
What if we don't understand?
Listen again!
Thankfully, nothing is hidden forever … we come to hear.

Opening Prayer **Ferenc Relle**

Let the light shine today,
in and through us,
in and through your word,
in and through the community in which you plant us.

Let your light shine today,
and re-orient us and our habits and our attention,
so that more and more light might shine forth,
making your kingdom way of life not only visible but accessible.
We ask in the name of the One who is the Light of the world. Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 401** **"Here in This Place"** ***Gather Us In

Call to Confession **Candy Relle**

We think that you do not know our hearts, hear our words,
see the mistakes we make, and the pain we cause, O God.
You not only know us better than we know ourselves, but you are gracious and forgive.
Hear us now, as we offer our lives and hearts to you, praying together, our prayer of confession …

Prayer of Confession **Candy Relle**

Extravagant God,
We are perplexed to see you scatter seed with abandon, never concerned where it will fall.
We think we could do it better, plowing and planting in only the best soil,
carefully measuring out the right amount of seed, fertilizer and water.
We fear that there will not be enough.
We apportion what we have been so generously given to those we think deserve it.

Forgive us, God of abundant life, for focusing so much on the right way to share your good news that we stunt our growth and restrict your harvest.

Turn us aside from the empire's insistence on efficiency and control
toward your kin-dom ways of sharing far and wide.
Trusting in your mysterious work to be revealed,
may we live lives flowering with generosity and mercy.
Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 288 **"Spirit of the Living God"** ***Living God***

Assurance of Forgiveness **Candy Relle**

God promises that we will come home with shouts of joy,
carrying a harvest of grace.

Know this good news:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Musical Offering **"Mary Did You Know"** *Lowry & Greene*
Juli Douglass-Gillespie, soloist; Ken Shafer, accompanist

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 4:1-9; 30-32 (NRSV)** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

4 Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he
got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the
land.[2] He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching, he said to them:
[3] "Listen! A sower went out to sow. [4] And as he sowed, some seed fell on a path, and the birds
came and ate it up. [5] Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it
sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. [6] And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and
since it had no root, it withered away. [7] Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up
and choked it, and it yielded no grain. [8] Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain,
growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." [9] And he said, "If
you have ears to hear, then hear!"

[30] He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use
for it? [31] It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the
seeds on earth, [32] yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and
puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Sermon **What Is Hidden To Be Revealed** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

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

Sharing of Joys and Concerns **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

Prayer of the People **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

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. 247** **"Now the Green Blade Rises"** *Noël Nouvelet*

Benediction **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Postlude **"Children Go Where I Send Thee"** *Trad., arr. R. Schramm*
Westminster Choir

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 inspired by Rev. Rebecca Page Lesley.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Ken Shafer, piano; Juli Douglass-Gillespie, soloist
*Sunday Service assistant/treats/flowers: Candy Relle

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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. 21

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

Monday, Jan. 22

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

Thursday, Jan. 25

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place

Sunday, Jan. 28

- Choir Rehearsal – 9 am – The Meeting Place
- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place

Monday, January 29

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

Westminster Presbyterian Church

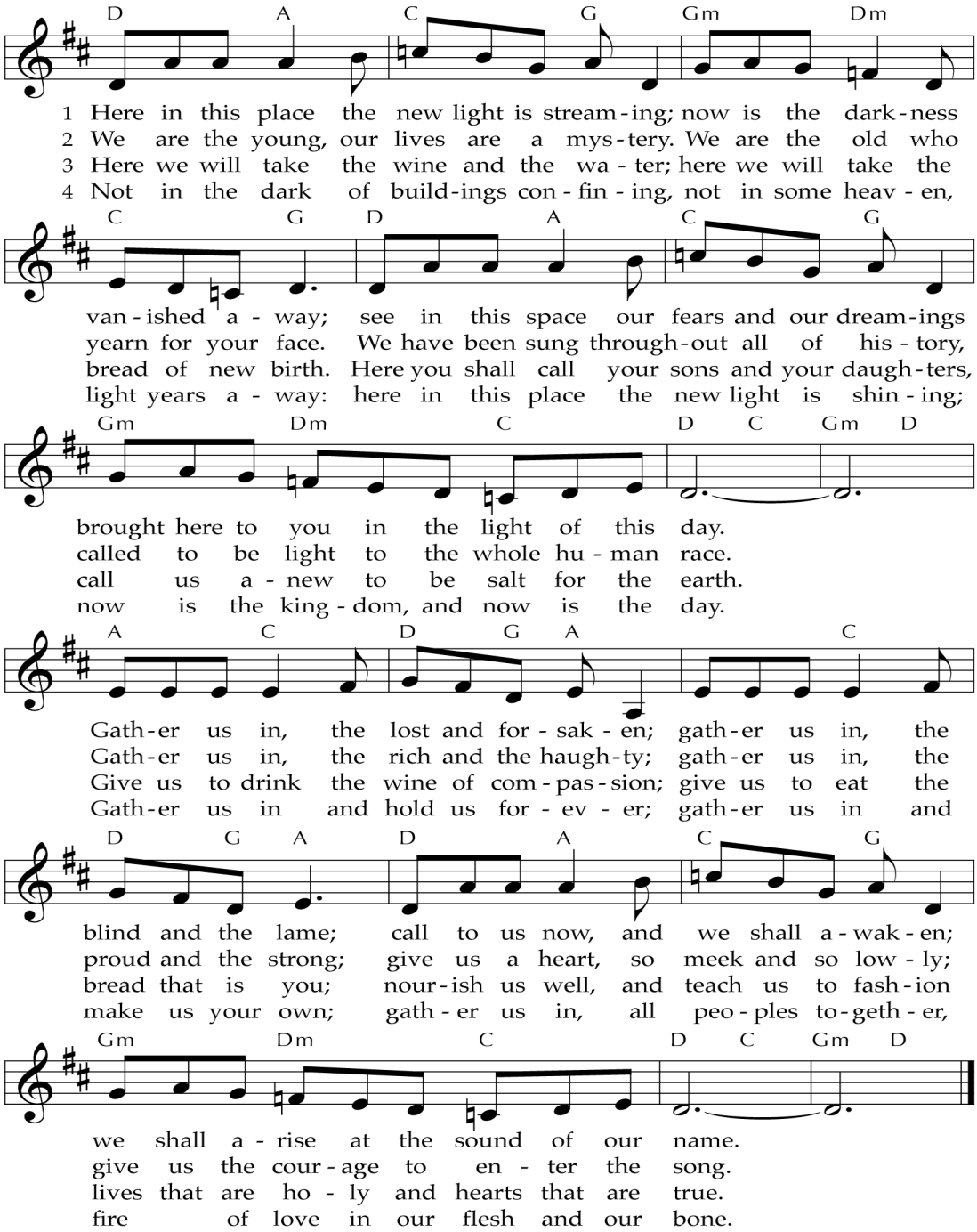
Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Minister of Music Rev. Dr. Thomas Shaw
Office Administrator Rev. Dr. James Henery
Tech/Media Administrator Jack Veney
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola

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.

Here in This Place
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 the Living God 288



KOREAN

살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
빚으시고 채우소서
살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서

SPANISH

Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
Tómame, cámbiame, llénname, úsame.
Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.

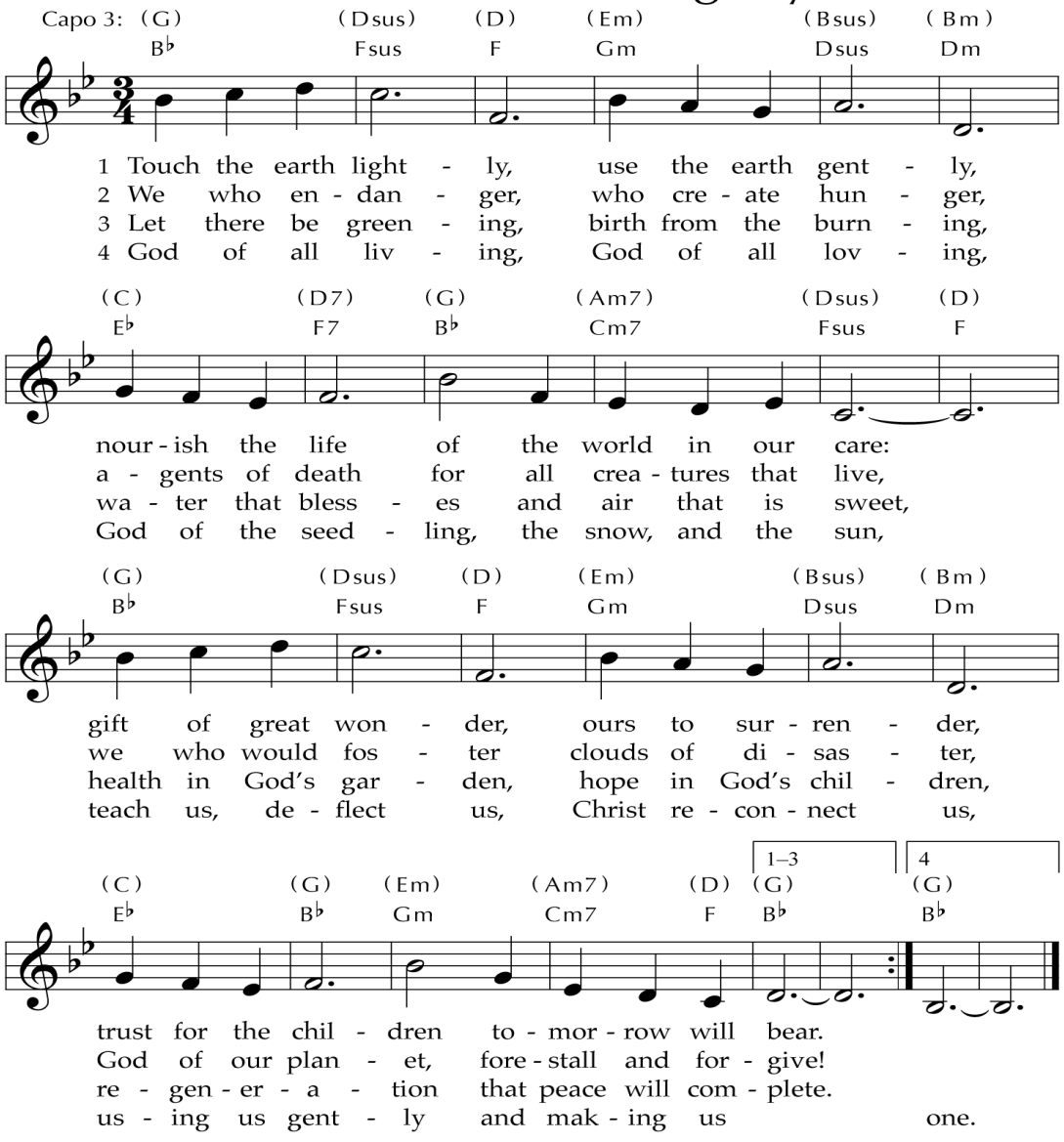
Both the words and the music of this prayer-song were written by a Presbyterian minister from Tarboro, North Carolina. The words were initially inspired by Jeremiah 18:1–6; a friend helped him set them to music during an evangelistic meeting in Orlando, Florida, where the song was first sung.

TEXT: Daniel Iverson, 1926; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee; Spanish trans. anon.
MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926
LIVING GOD
Irregular

Text and Music © 1935 Birdwing Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)
Korean Trans. © 2001 Birdwing Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)

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

247 Now the Green Blade Rises



Although there were some traditional Easter carols, this hybrid one has been created by grafting a 20th-century English text onto a late 15th-century French tune. The allegory of the dying and rising grain as a parallel for Christ's Resurrection is probably based on John 12:24.

TEXT: John M. C. Crum, 1928, alt.
MUSIC: French carol, 15th cent.; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928
Text and Music Harm. © 1928 Oxford University Press

NOËL NOUVELET
11.10.10.11