Westminster
Presbyterian Church
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# Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
# Service of Communion
# September 3, 2023

**Welcome and Announcements** — **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

*Let u s open our hearts and minds to the rhythm of the gathering music as it centers us in God's presence for worship.*

**Prelude** — **"Morning Prelude"** — ***G. Sewell***

***Gathering Words** — **Linda Barbu**

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

We gather in the presence of Christ, who calls all people to life.
**Not to escape the world, but to serve.**
Christ shows us the way to be kin-dom builders.
**Not to gloat in our goodness, but to re-focus ourselves on his priorities.**
Christ gathers us as One Body,
**to worship and be faithful.**

**Opening Prayer** — **Linda Barbu**

Creator God,
who from the very beginning brought order out of chaos,
and in Jesus Christ made visible your power of life and love,
we give you thanks for your constant work and care.
As you build your kin-dom here,
may we stand on the firm foundation you have laid in Christ,
who brings to fulfilment your promise that goodness is stronger than evil,
and may we live that reality in all we say and do,

through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Opening Hymn No. 410 "God Is Calling through the Whisper" W. żłobie leży**

**Call to Confession Greg Barbu**

How quickly we can forget – our faith, our calling, our hope!
All because we try to do everything our way, rather than God's.
But God is quicker to forgive, and to restore us to new life.
Let us confess to our God, as we pray, saying together our prayer of confession…

**Prayer of Confession Greg Barbu**

**You call us, Jesus, to always be in community with those the world despises and overlooks.
You have said that we can see your face in the faces of those around us.
You have said that to follow you is to leave behind our status, and the status quo,
to take up the cross instead.**

**Forgive us, O God, for your way asks much of us and we haven't quite managed it yet.
Forgive us when we have judged rather than loved,
when we have taken it upon ourselves to sort people into "us" and "them,"
when we have turned our eyes away from even one of your beloved children.
Forgive us and change our habits so our first instinct aligns with your love for all.
Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

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

**Assurance of Forgiveness Greg Barbu**

This is our assurance: God forgives us.
This is our hope: God's love is everlasting.
This is our truth: God is with us always.

**We will speak the truth;
we will live the hope;
we will share God's mercy.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Musical Offering "Meditation on 'Be Thou My Vision'" *arr. R. Lau*

*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 John 15:12 (Common English Bible) Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy

12 This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you.

Matthew 25:35-40 (Common English Bible)

35 I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. 36 I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'

37 "Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? 38 When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

40 "Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'

Reflections Living as the Body of Christ
*Dialogue with our ministry partner, Joe Szeker, Director of Operations for People to People*

*Communion Hymn No. 498 Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken" *Beach Spring*

Service of Communion

God of wonder and joy,
The signs of your love, creativity and imagination surround us.

Your streams of mercy flow from your glory
bringing living water into every place,
nourishing creation, making it bear fruit that will last,
filling our cup until it runs over, spilling out abundant life.

We give you thanks for your generous providing,
and for your call to be your people.
We have wandered in the desert, we have turned our backs,
we have followed the path, we have walked on ahead,
and still your Spirit calls us, tugging us back to your way,
shining your light and singing your grace
so we might follow in faith.

It is with gratitude, praise, and hearts lifted high that we come to your table,
calling to mind your creative Word in the flesh—Jesus who walked among us.
As he reached out to touch the sick, may we reach out with healing hands.
As he went to neighborhoods we deem bad and befriended those whom society rejected,
may we go out to where your people long for good news.
As he spread health and holiness with every step, every word, every breath,
may we live as if grace is contagious, sharing your love with people near and far,
those we meet and those we would rather avoid.

As we meet at the feast of your family, O God, we carry with us those who hunger and thirst,
who cannot imagine the abundance of this table,
who feel excluded or forgotten, who live with fear and violence,
who wait for justice, who long for peace, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

While we celebrate this day, some in your family see no cause for celebration.
While we have feasted on your word, some still see reading as an impossible luxury.
While we have learned and spoken and prayed together,
some have been silenced and held aside.

When we break bread together, break our hearts too,
and then by your Spirit bind us together with all your people
to seek your purpose and work your will.
Give us a glimpse of your kin-dom, where the whole human family eats together,
and strengthen us with the courage to build your reign justice and peace here on earth.

We offer our hearts and lives to you, O God,
praying that you would use grain and grape
to write your covenant of love within us
until grace overflows.

We pray 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.**

Words of Institution
Communion of the people
Communion Anthem **"Come Find Forgiveness and Love"** *D. Besig*
*(Westminster Choir)*
Prayer after Communion

***Closing Hymn No. 761** **"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"** *Beecher*

**Benediction** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

**Postlude** **"Fuge in E Minor"** *(BWV 555)* *J. S. Bach*

*The service continues with fellowship.*

*The Gathering Words, the Opening Prayer, and the Prayer of Confession were adapted from *Rev. Teri Peterson*. All other prayers were written by Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ
*Sunday Service Assistant: Linda Barbu
*Flowers: Dorothy Iams

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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.

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## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, Sept. 3

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

### Monday, Sept. 4

- Labor Day – office is closed

### Thursday, Sept. 6

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place

### Sunday, Sept. 10

- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
  Packing of school bags and ice cream/brownies served
- 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
**AV Assistant/Event Steward** Tony Mendiola
**Custodian** Kara Akers

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

**wpcwooster@gmail.com: 330.263.2398**
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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.*

GATHERING

# 410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



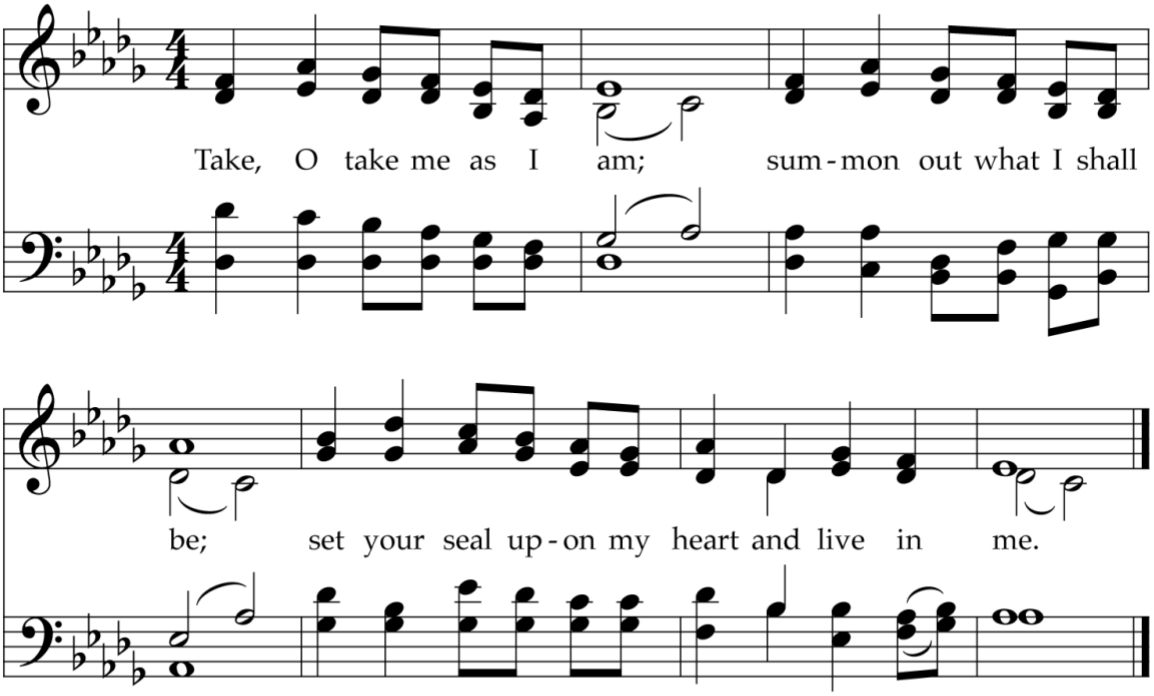

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2003
MUSIC: Polish carol; harm. Wilbur Lee, 1958
*Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.*
*Music Harm. © 1958 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)*

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY
8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7
(this tune in a higher key, 128)

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

# 698 Take, O Take Me as I Am



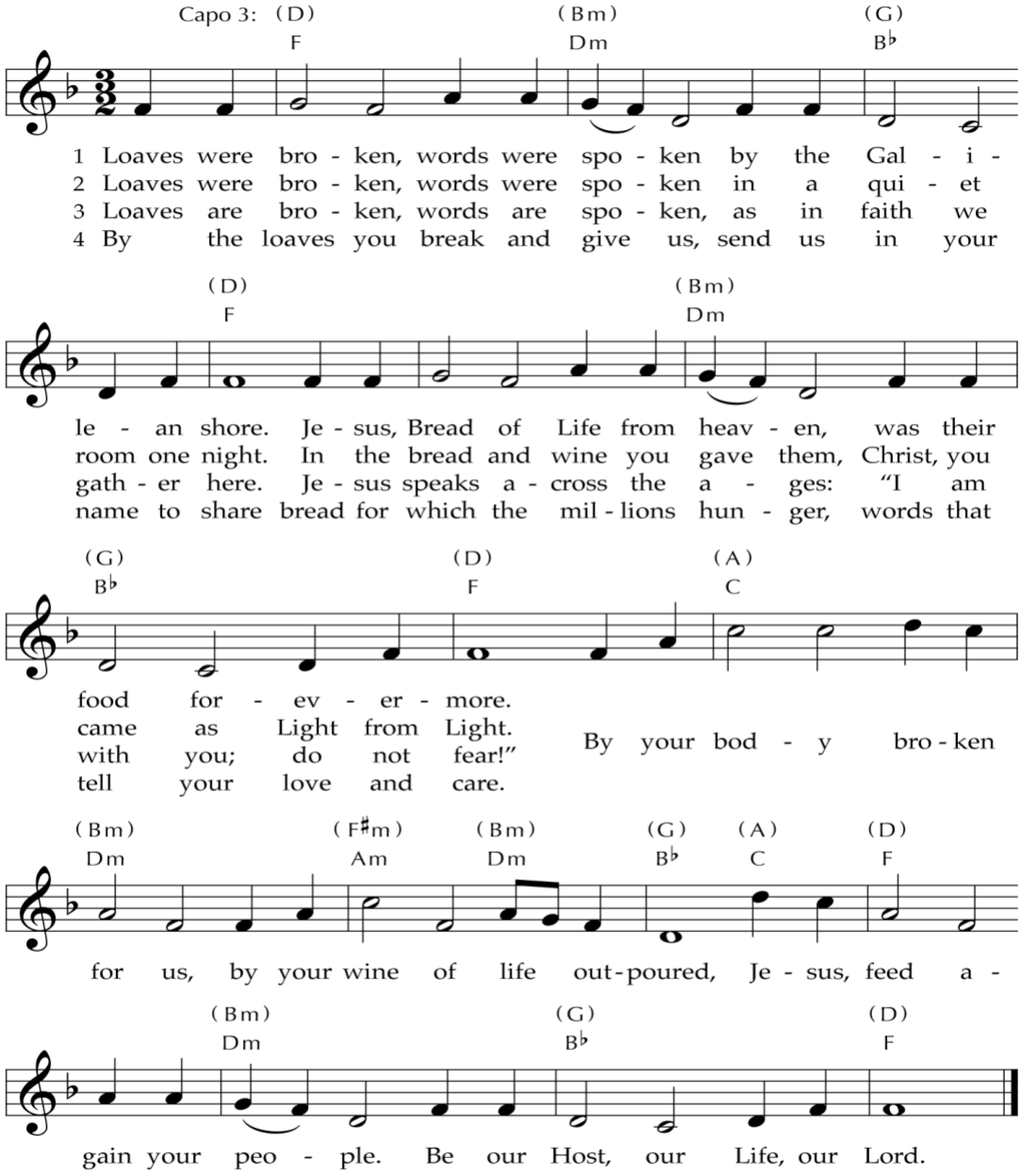

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

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

# Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

# 498




*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

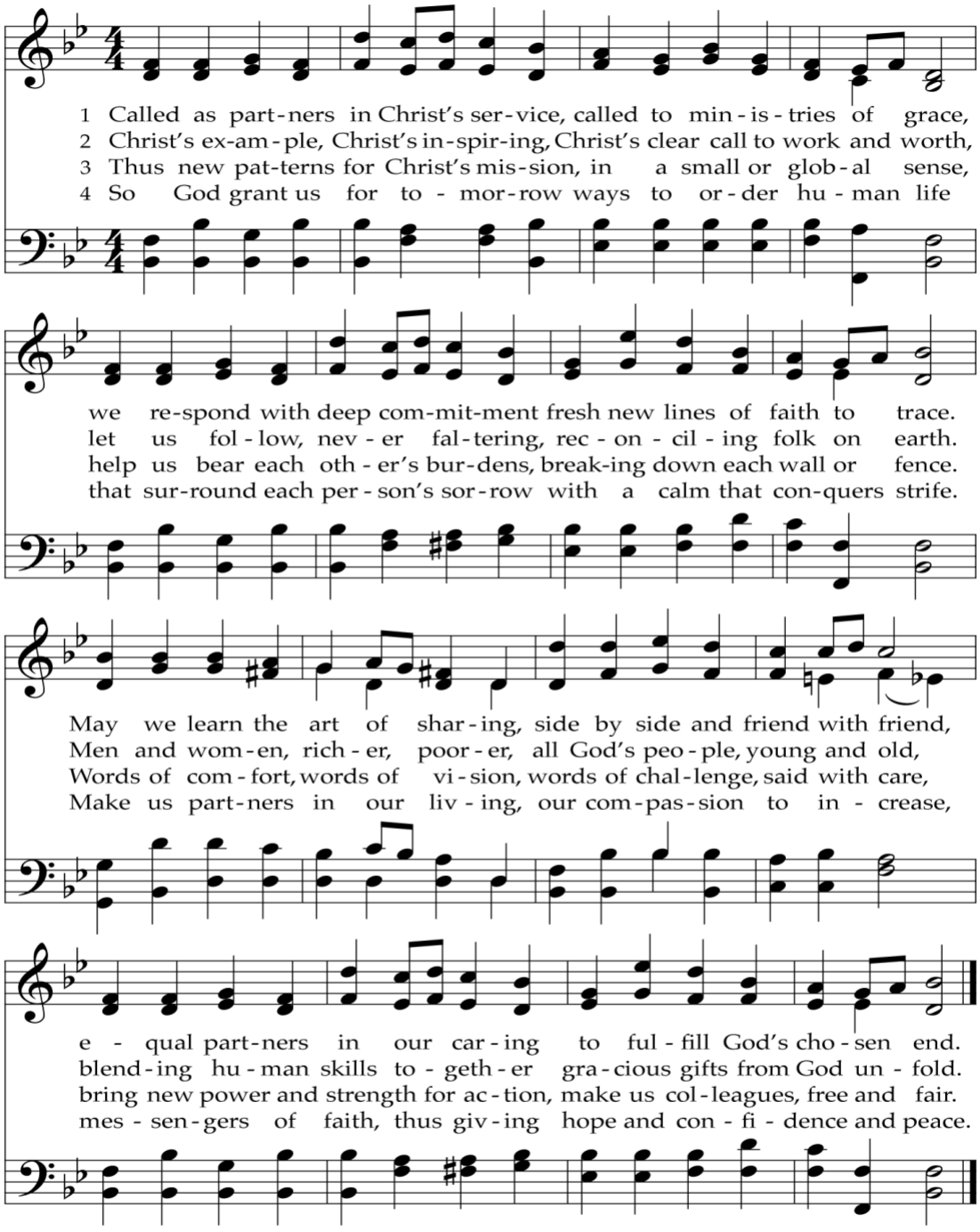
The first two stanzas of this text deal with events in the past (the feeding of the multitude and the Last Supper) and the final two with events in the present. The recurring last four lines of each stanza serve as an affirmation of Christ's continuing presence at all times.

TEXT: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2005
MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp,* 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958

BEACH SPRING
8.7.8.7.D

*Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.*
*Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press/Van Ness Press, Inc. (admin. Music Services)*

# Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761




This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.

TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870
*Text © 1981 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)*

BEECHER
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: EBENEZER)