Westminster Presbyterian Church

September 5, 2021
15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
COMMUNION SUNDAY

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

Prelude Prelude on "St. Columba" TRAD./ARR EDWARD BROUGHTON

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** Psalm 118: 24 **Eric Miller**

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

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***Opening Prayer**

Creator of all that is,
We thank you for gathering us for worship once again this morning.
May we experience your presence in our midst in tangible ways:
Through music and song, through prayers and your word,
Through the nourishment at the table and through the time of fellowship with each other.

Pour your Spirit into our weary souls.
Teach us how to rest. Feed us. Transform and renew us.
May we find new passion and joy in living as your disciples
So we join forces with you in healing the brokenness of the world.
Amen.

***Opening Hymn No. 664** Morning Has Broken BUNNESAN

Call to Confession **Sherry Hatter-Miller**

Friends, God invites us to a real relationship, which means being honest with ourselves, others, and God. So, let's start here – let us confess the uncomfortable truth of our sin—our failures to live as God's children, knowing that in this space we do not need to pretend or be perfect. God's grace and mercy is ready for us. Please join me in our unison prayer of confession…

Prayer of Confession/Truth Telling

Holy One, we think we are so wise with the choices we make, only to end up with all that keeps us from you. We find little enough time for our families, for ourselves, you – much less setting aside an entire day for that rest you call Sabbath. The world's race for more, for better, for greater never satisfies us and we wither in body and in spirit.

Forgive us, Abiding Love. Help us to receive your gift of rest so that we live lives honoring you, ourselves and our neighbors. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness **Sherry Hatter-Miller**

God desires our wellbeing and God does not give up on us. God seeks us today and every day, until we find our rest in God. So, Beloved of God, believe the good news of the gospel:

We belong to God and to one another. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven, claimed, and loved. We are empowered to do God's work and to enjoy God's Sabbath. Thanks be to God.
Amen.

Musical Response "His Loving and Mysterious Ways" BEATRICE MILLER

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

Scripture Reading Matthew 11:27-12:8

All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

Sermon Following the Lord of the Sabbath **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

***Hymn** As the Deer MARTIN J. NYSTROM

As the deer pants for the water,
So my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship you.

Refrain:
You alone are my strength, my shield,

To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship you.

I want you more than gold or silver;
Only you can satisfy.
You alone are a real joy-giver,
And the apple of my eye.

(Refrain)

You're my friend and you are my brother,
Even though you are a King,
I love you more than any other,
So much more than anything.

(Refrain)

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

By the time you decided to take a break,
God of incredible imagination,
Your Word had whispered all that is into being.
You saw that it was good.
Yet, us, your beloved intricately woven in your image
could not appreciate what you intended to nurture us and help us flourish.
We turned away from you, from one another and your creation,
Making choices that harm life.

In your relentless love for us,
You sent trustworthy women and men
to invite us back home with you.
You came in Jesus, God-in-the-flesh, and lived in our midst.

In walking our streets,
You made every neighborhood holy ground.
In sharing your hopes for us,
You made every day a Sabbath from fears.
In knowing our pain,
You gave us the strength not to be crushed.
In hearing our cries for hope,
You turned our voices into songs of grace.
In experiencing our death,
You broke sin's power over us,
as your resurrection grace
became the promised hope of everyone.

Here on this holy day, and in this sacred space,
pour out your Holy Spirit on your people
and the gifts of the bread and the cup.

Though we often feel like empty, fragile containers,
may the broken bread give us the strength
to go out to serve your people:
those bullied by classmates,
those dealing with pain and grief,
those overwhelmed by fears.

May the cup of grace nourish us
to be able to go into the world:
to stand with the forgotten,
to bring healing to the broken,
to lift up those knocked down by hate.

We bring our burdens, fears, and hopes to you, Sustainer of Life.

(*Petitions lifted)*

Here, in company of your Beloved,
May we find rest.
May we be nourished into people who are life-nurturers,
Who will go forth to break the hold of injustice and oppression
on our sisters and brothers,
Who will embrace the unloved and build your Beloved Community.

With the hope of people who dream, 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. 547**	Go, My Children, With My Blessing	AR HYDY NOS
***Benediction**		**Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**
Postlude	Postlude on "Bradbury"	JOHN RASLEY

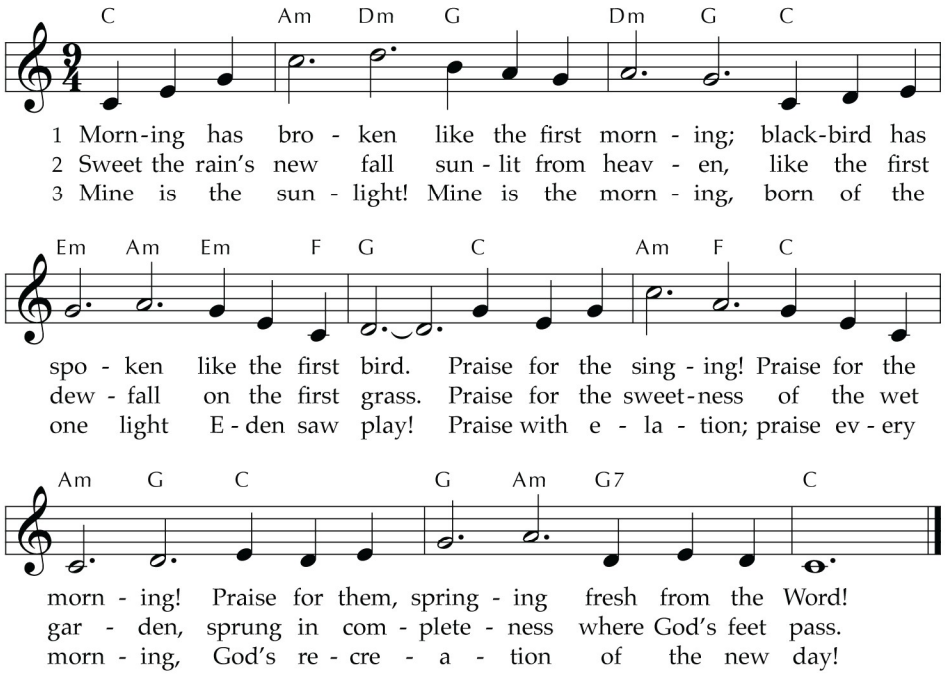
The service continues with refreshments and fellowship.

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.

Note: Great Prayer of Thanksgiving was adapted from Thom Schuman.
Music: Ken Shafer – Piano, Organ.

Sunday Service Assistant is Cheryl Weiss.
Refreshments provided by Cheryl Weiss.
Flowers provided by Barbara Tartir

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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547



Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22–27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.

TEXT: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983
MUSIC: Welsh melody
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

AR HYD Y NOS
8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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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.