Westminster
Presbyterian Church
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330-263-2398 / wpcwooster@gmail.com

24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 12, 2023

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 — **"Theme from 6th Symphony"** ***("Pathétique")*** — ***P.I. Tchaikowsky***
Bob Iams, piano

***Gathering Words** — **Candy Relle**

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

When we were children
God loved us.
When we were captive
God set us free.
When we walk away
God's call remains.
When we are in need
God bends down to care for us.

Come, let us worship
the One who loves us with everlasting love.

Opening Prayer — **Candy Relle**

Into a broken world, living God,
you brought health and healing.

Into lifeless lives you brought love and energy.
Into our fears and failures, you brought reassurance.

Lift us today, gracious God,
Into the certainty of your promise to always be with us.
Teach us to walk in the ways of your compassion and love.
Again and again. Amen.

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

Call to Confession **Ferenc Relle**

The prophets remind us that God's ways are not like our ways.
For God is slow to anger and steadfast in love.
Let us confess the ways we have wronged God and each other,
trusting God's mercy, so we may find wholeness.
Let us pray together our prayer of confession…

Prayer of Confession **Ferenc Relle**

Gracious and loving God,
We confess that though we are made in your image, we do not behave like you.
We easily forget those thrown aside by the world and seek our own comfort.
We are quick to judge those who make choices with which we disagree,
those who are so different from us.
We too become hurdlers of words that destroy instead of connecting or healing.

Forgive us, O God.
Show us the path of compassion and mercy, again and again.
Continue to teach us better ways of living and doing.
Grant us the power, the persistence, and the vision for the journey.
In your name, we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 435 **"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"** ***In Babilone***

Assurance of Forgiveness **Ferenc Relle**

Friends, hear and live this good news:
God's enduring compassion outweighs all else.

God loves us. God forgives us.
God lifts us to new life.
Thanks be to God. Amen

Musical Offering **"I'll Fly Away"** ***A. E. Brumley***
Dave Schmidt, guitar

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 **Hosea 11:1-9** ***(CEB translation)*** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

11 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.
2 The more I called them, the further they went from me;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and they burned incense to idols.
3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up in my arms,
but they did not know that I healed them.
4 I led them with bands of human kindness, with cords of love.
I treated them like those who lift infants to their cheeks;
I bent down to them and fed them.

5 They will return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria will be their king,
because they have refused to return to me.
6 The sword will strike wildly in their cities; it will consume the bars of their gates
and will take everything because of their schemes.

7 My people are bent on turning away from me; and though they cry out to the Most High,
he will not raise them up.

8 How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel?
How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart winces within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.

9 I won't act on the heat of my anger; I won't return to destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and not a human being, the holy one in your midst;
I won't come in harsh judgment.

Sermon **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

***Hymn No. 44** **"Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us"**
Austin

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. 287** **"Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading"** *Njoo Kwetu, Roho Mwema*

Benediction Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy

Postlude " Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich" *J. S. Bach*
(Chorale with Fugue, BWV 609 & 557)

The service continues with fellowship.

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*The Gathering Words and Opening Prayer were adapted from *Spill the Beans,* resource for the Narrative Lectionary from the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. All other prayers were written by Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Bob Iams, piano; Dave Schmidt, guitar
*Sunday Service Assistant/flowers/: Candy Relle
*Sunday treats: 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, Nov. 12

- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place
- Immigration Justice Committee – following worship –The Lounge
- Interfaith Vigil for Israel & Palestine – 2 pm – North Side of the Kauke Arch (event hosted by the RSL Office)
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Monday, Nov. 13

- Troop 61 – 6 pm – Mackey Hall
- WPC Session – 7 pm – The Lounge

Wednesday, Nov. 15

- Final evening for Wooster Religious Studies Academy series – 7 pm – The Alley (Lower level of Lowry)

Thursday, Nov. 16

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place

Sunday, Nov. 19

- Worship Service – 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
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola

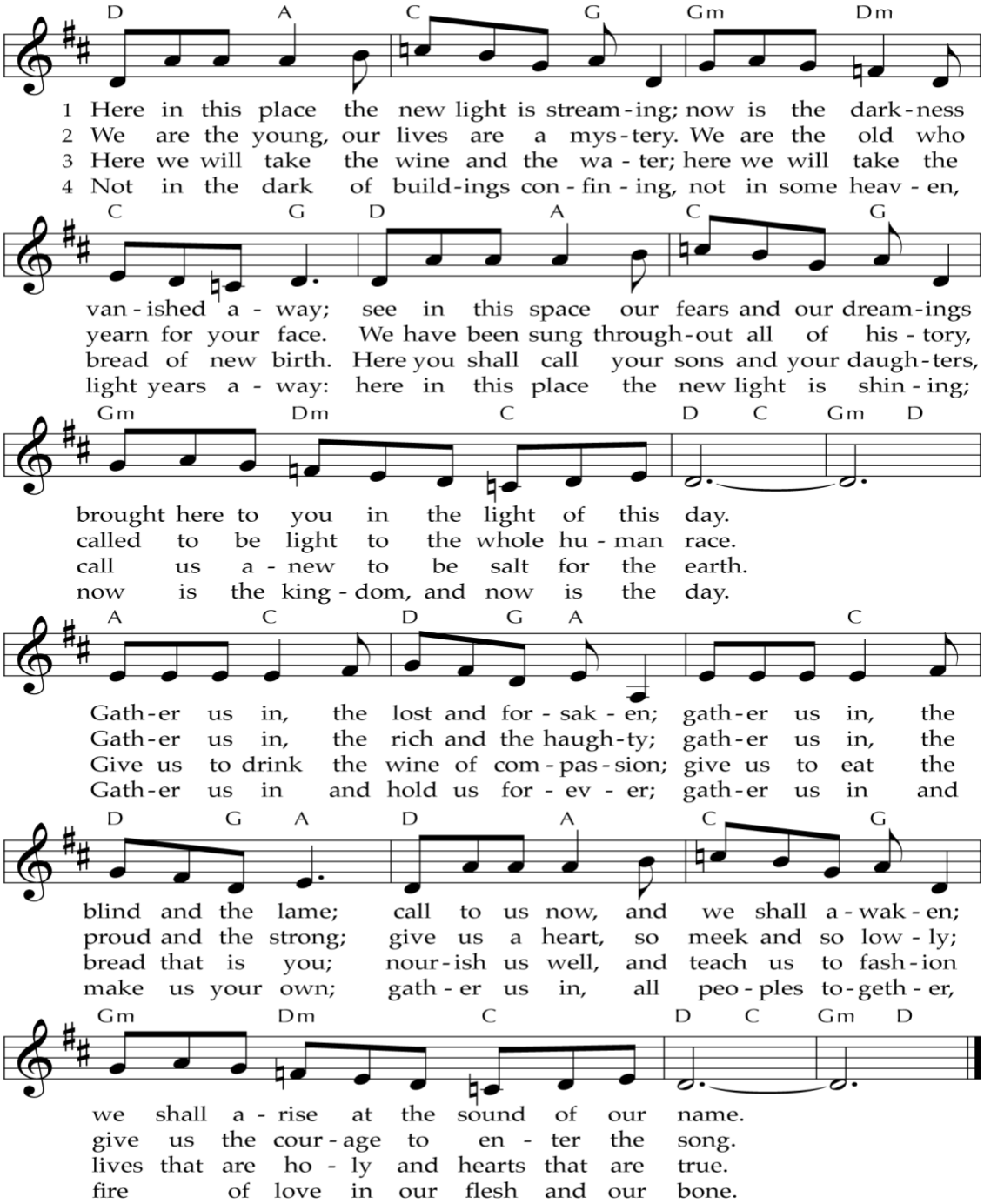
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

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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 401

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

FORGIVENESS

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

TEXT: Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt.
MUSIC: Dutch melody; arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906

IN BABILONE
8.7.8.7.D

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

44 Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us



This text was inspired by how the prophet Hosea describes the parental nature of God's relationship with Israel (Hosea 11:1–19). The last stanza echoes Christ's teachings about love of neighbor (Matthew 22:37–40/ Mark 12:29–31) and care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:31–46).

TEXT: Daniel Bechtel, 1986
MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 1992
Text © 1986 Daniel R. Bechtel
Music © 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

AUSTIN
8.7.8.7

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

287 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading



Originally written for the uniting of the Lutheran churches in Tanzania, this prayerful hymn touches on the need of the whole church at all times for the Holy Spirit's guidance and blessing. When appropriate, the refrain can effectively be used alone as a prayer response.

TEXT: Wilson Niwagila, 1965; trans. Howard S. Olson, 1968
MUSIC: Wilson Niwagila, 1965; arr. Egil Hovland, 1993
Text and Music © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira (admin. Augsburg Fortress)
Music Arr. © Egil Hovland

NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA
CM with refrain