Westminster Presbyterian Church

August 15, 2021
12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Prelude When Peace Like a River/The Water is Wide ARR. RACHEL TRELSTAD PORTER
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** **Sherry Hatter-Miller**
*The * in the liturgy indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

We come into this place
with the hope of growing deeper,
with the hope of connecting,
with the hope of glimpsing God.

As all those things take place,
and our spirit is moved,
and we swear God is near,
and we are filled with gratitude for the gifts of faith,
when it's time for you to leave, we ask ourselves,
"Where do we go from here?"

Then we are reminded:
"Go out into the world
to love and to share and to learn,
but come back soon,
because this is the beginning."

This is only the beginning.

So come on in.
Fill your cup here.
Be present here.
God is here.
Let us worship Holy God.

***Opening Prayer**

Ever-present God,
Thank you for this holy time set aside each week
to nourish ourselves, to rest our souls, and find our home in you.
Thank you for the courage to ask questions,
to challenge and be challenged.
May this be the place where we experience
your Spirit of love and abundance surround us.

May we be unsettled with enough curiosity
to keep coming back to you
so we can go out into the world
To love and share and to learn.
Amen.

***Opening Hymn** A Covenant of Grace O WALY WALY

Call to Confession **Eric Miller**

One of the things I love about the prayer of confession is that
it allows us to claim that we are works in progress, and there is beauty in that.
You don't have to be perfect here.
You don't have to have it all figured out here.
You don't have to have a five-step plan for what's next here.
You just have to show up with your messy, beautiful self, and be honest.
So friends, let us be honest. Let us pray the prayer of confession together…

Prayer of Confession/Truth Telling

Holy God,
We are naturals when it comes to stalling out.
We reach a certain point in the relationship, in the conversation, in our faith, and then we stall.
We buy property on the top of the plateau and build a house there,
destined to never dig deeper or climb higher.

Forgive us for giving up on the things that matter.
Forgive us for confusing the plateau with the mountain top. Forgive us for taking the easy way out instead of doing the hard work of curiosity, relationship-building, vulnerability, and connection.
Inspire us to see new paths for where we can go from here.
With hope and honesty we pray,
Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness **Eric Miller**

Family of faith,
We are works in progress, but we are works in progress designed, created, and claimed by God.
No matter what you have done or left undone this week, today is a fresh start.
Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

God is with me on the mountain top, and God is with me on the plateau.
I am loved, claimed, and forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Musical Response God of the Sparrow

***Passing of the Peace** **Eric Miller**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

By Passing of the Peace to each other in worship we recognize that we are part of the Body of Christ reconciled to one another in Jesus Christ. To protect the safety of all, we invite you to engage in this ritual by offering a courtesy bow or showing the sign of peace to those seated immediately next to you.

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

Scripture Reading Acts 10:1-28

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. **2** He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. **3** One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius." **4** He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" He answered, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. **5** Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; **6** he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside." **7** When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, **8** and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

9 About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. **10** He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. **11** He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. **12** In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. **13** Then he heard a voice saying, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." **14** But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean." **15** The voice said to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." **16** This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

17 Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate. **18** They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. **19** While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look, three men are searching for you. **20** Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation; for I have sent them." **21** So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?" **22** They answered, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say." **23** So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging. The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers from Joppa accompanied him. **24** The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. **25** On Peter's arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshiped him. **26** But Peter made him get up, saying, "Stand up; I am only a mortal." **27** And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled; **28** and he said to them, "You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean.

Sermon **I've Been Meaning to Ask: Where Do We Go from Here?** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**
Part Two: Cultivating Resilience

***Hymn No. 451** Open My Eyes, That I May See OPEN MY EYES

Prayer of the People **Sherry Hatter-Miller**

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. 757** Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples KINGSFOLD

***Benediction** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Postlude Prelude in C, WTC 1 J. S. BACH

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: Prayers were adapted from *Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

Music: Karolyn Rice – Piano, Flute

Sunday Service Assistant is Dawn Kridel.
Refreshments provided by Candy Relle and Dawn Kridel.
Flowers provided by Dorothy Iams.
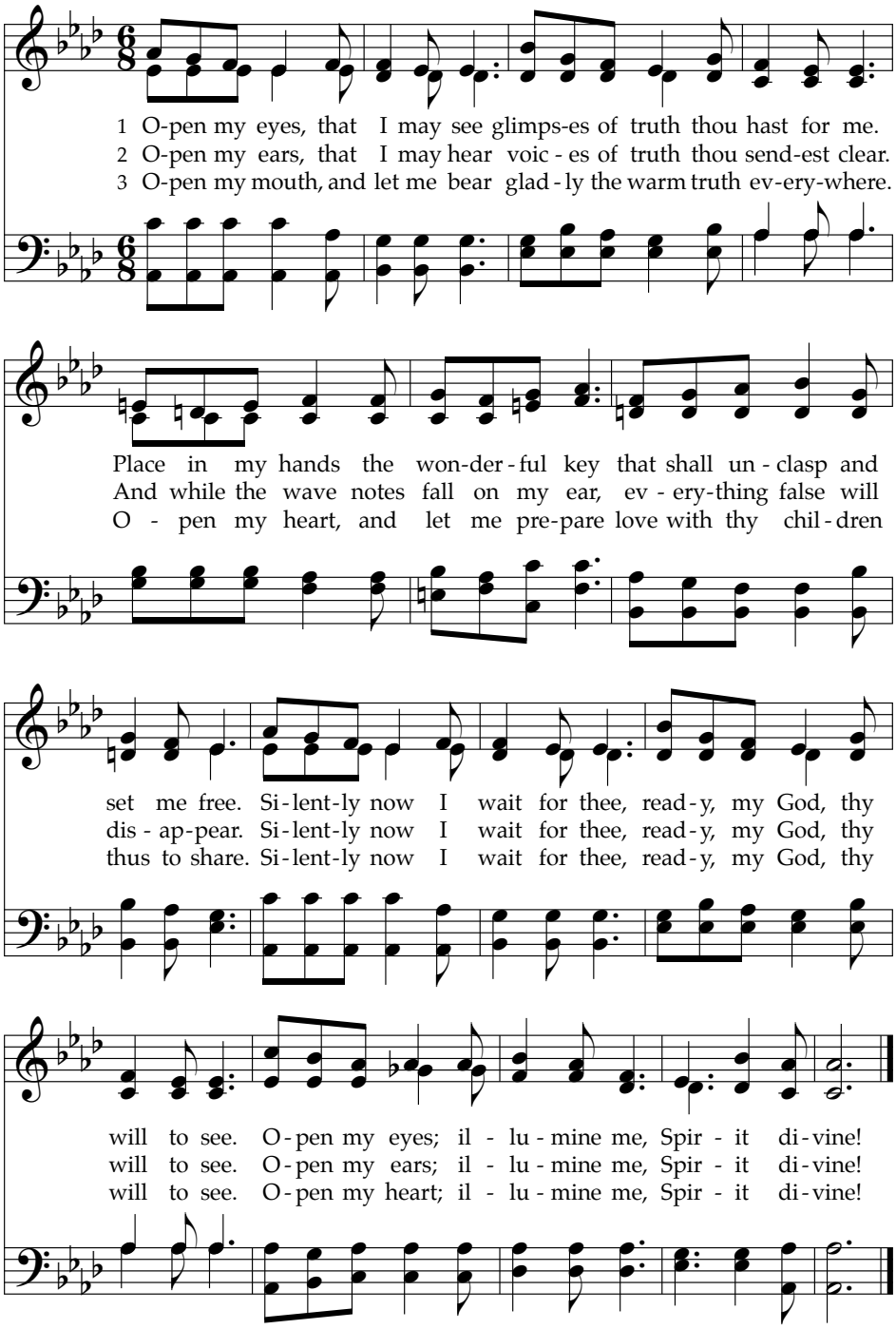
Westminster Presbyterian Church

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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.

Open My Eyes, That I May See 451
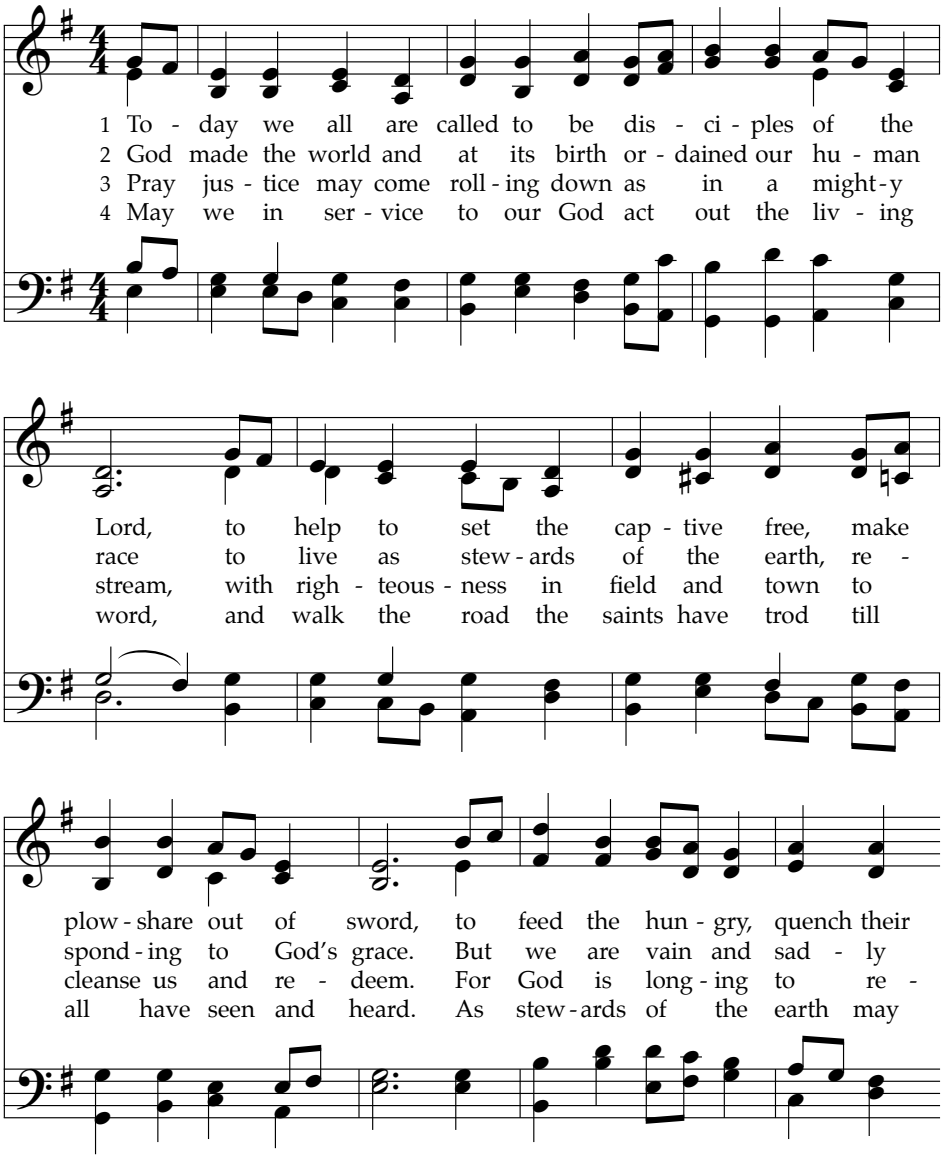


The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

TEXT and MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895
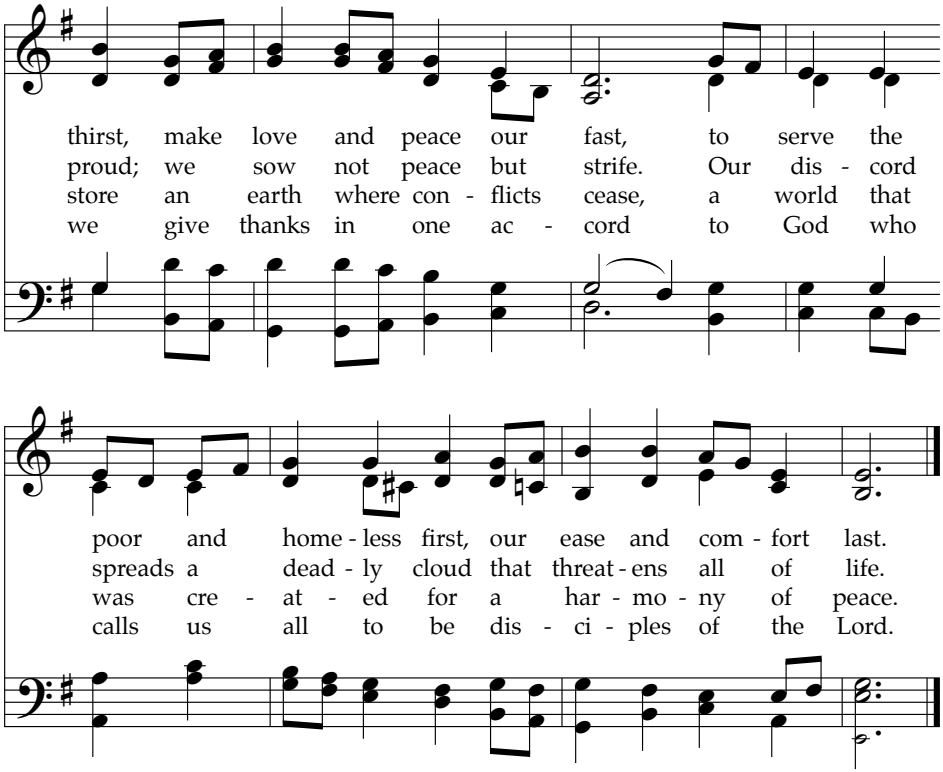
OPEN MY EYES
8.8.9.8.8.8.8.4

757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples



This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

TEXT: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985 KINGSFOLD
MUSIC: *English County Songs,* 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 CMD
Text © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael


thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who
poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.