Westminster
Presbyterian Church

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Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 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 **"Trois Mouvements" (*first movement*)** ***Jehan Alain***
"Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness"
I. Into the Wilderness
"Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness." (Luke 4:1)

***Gathering Words** **Cheryl Weiss**

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

God's grace is beyond our capacity
and so we come to give thanks for forgiveness we can never earn.
God's grace demands our response
and so we come to learn the ways of faithful living.
God's grace is meant to be shared
and so we come to encounter love and be equipped for loving.

Opening Prayer **Cheryl Weiss**

I cannot answer the question "What ought I to do?" unless I first answer the question "Of which story am I a part?" ~Alasdair MacIntyre

Sometimes, Holy One, we see ourselves in your story so easily.
We recognize the questions and the confusion,
the desire to get it right and the hope that we misheard.

And sometimes we do not want to see ourselves in your story.
We listen with disbelief and wonder what it has to do with us,
certain we would never be like that.
Tell us your story again today,
and make it our story.
Show us how we fit in and what we ought to do
to live now in your kin-dom.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 450 "Be Thou My Vision"** ***Slane

Call to Confession **Bill Weiss**

Friends, as we study Peter's story in scripture it's almost impossible to ignore how much he loved to ask questions. He asks Jesus: "What does the parable mean?" "Where are you going?" "How many times should we forgive?"

Like a tenacious toddler, Peter was full of questions, because Peter was eager to learn. So let's be like Peter. Let's return to Christ with the humility of a student as we pray together the prayer of confession. Let this be a moment of learning that leads to transformation. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession **Bill Weiss**

God of endless love, you call us to community made in your image, honest and vulnerable and real, speaking up when we witness hurt, and choosing the way of accountability and reconciliation.

We confess that we do not love as you love.
We are sometimes silent when we witness hurt. We sometimes talk about rather than to people, and we sweep things under the rug rather than deal with upsetting situations.

Have patience with us, O God, for we are a work in progress.
And when we falter, when we ask for things from you that we are unwilling to grant to our neighbor, nudge us again by your Spirit.

Give us ears to hear the witnesses you send, and help us grow into the people you intend:

forgiven, loved, and free to forgive and love.
We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 702 **"Christ Be Beside Me"** ***Bunessan***

Assurance of Forgiveness **Bill Weiss**

Family of faith,
When Peter asked Jesus, "How many times should I forgive?" Jesus responded with abundance. That abundance exists for us as well. No matter what we have done or left undone, no matter what lessons we have learned or are still learning, God's abundant grace and love will never run out.

So hear and rest in this good news:
We are forgiven. We are loved. We are empowered to serve.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Musical Offering **"Trois Mouvements" *(second movement)*** ***Jehan Alain***
"Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness"
II. Testing and Temptation
"Jesus was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan." (Mark 1:12)

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 **Matthew 18:1-5; 12-22 *(CEB)*** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

[2] Then he called a little child over to sit among the disciples, [3] and said, "I assure you that if you
don't turn your lives around and become like this little child, you will definitely not enter the
kingdom of heaven. [4] Those who humble themselves like this little child will be the greatest in
the kingdom of heaven. [5] Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

[12] What do you think? If someone had one hundred sheep and one of them wandered off,
wouldn't he leave the ninety-nine on the hillsides and go in search for the one that wandered
off? [13] If he finds it, I assure you that he is happier about having that one sheep than about the
ninety-nine who didn't wander off. [14] In the same way, my Father who is in heaven doesn't
want to lose one of these little ones.

[15] "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together.
If they listen to you, then you've won over your brother or sister. [16] But if they won't listen,
take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or
three witnesses. [17] But if they still won't pay attention, report it to the church. If they won't pay
attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. [18] I assure
you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on
earth will be loosened in heaven. [19] Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about
anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. [20] For where two or three
are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

[21] Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who
sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

[22] Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times.

Sermon **Wandering Heart: The Art of Graceful Living** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 754 **"Help Us Accept Each Other"** ***Baronita***

Sharing of Joys and Concerns **Cheryl and Bill Weiss**

Prayer of the People **Cheryl and Bill Weiss**

We ask these things 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. 802** **"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"** ***St. Columba

Benediction **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Postlude **"Trois Mouvements" (*third movement)*** ***Jehan Alain***
"Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness"
III. Worship the Lord Your God
"Away from me, Satan! For it is written:
'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Matthew 4:11)

The service continues with fellowship.

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*Please stand in body or in spirit.
*The Gathering Words, Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession were adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson. The Call to Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness were adapted from *Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Susan Shaw, Flute
*Sunday service assistant/treats: Cheryl Weiss

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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, March 17

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

Monday, March 18

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

Wednesday, March 20

- Session – 6.30 – The Lounge

Thursday, March 21

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place
- Lenten study – 7 pm – The Lounge

Sunday, March 24

- **Palm/Passion Sunday**
- Choir rehearsal – 9 am – Mackey Hall
- 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
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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Our 150th year celebration, May 5, 2024

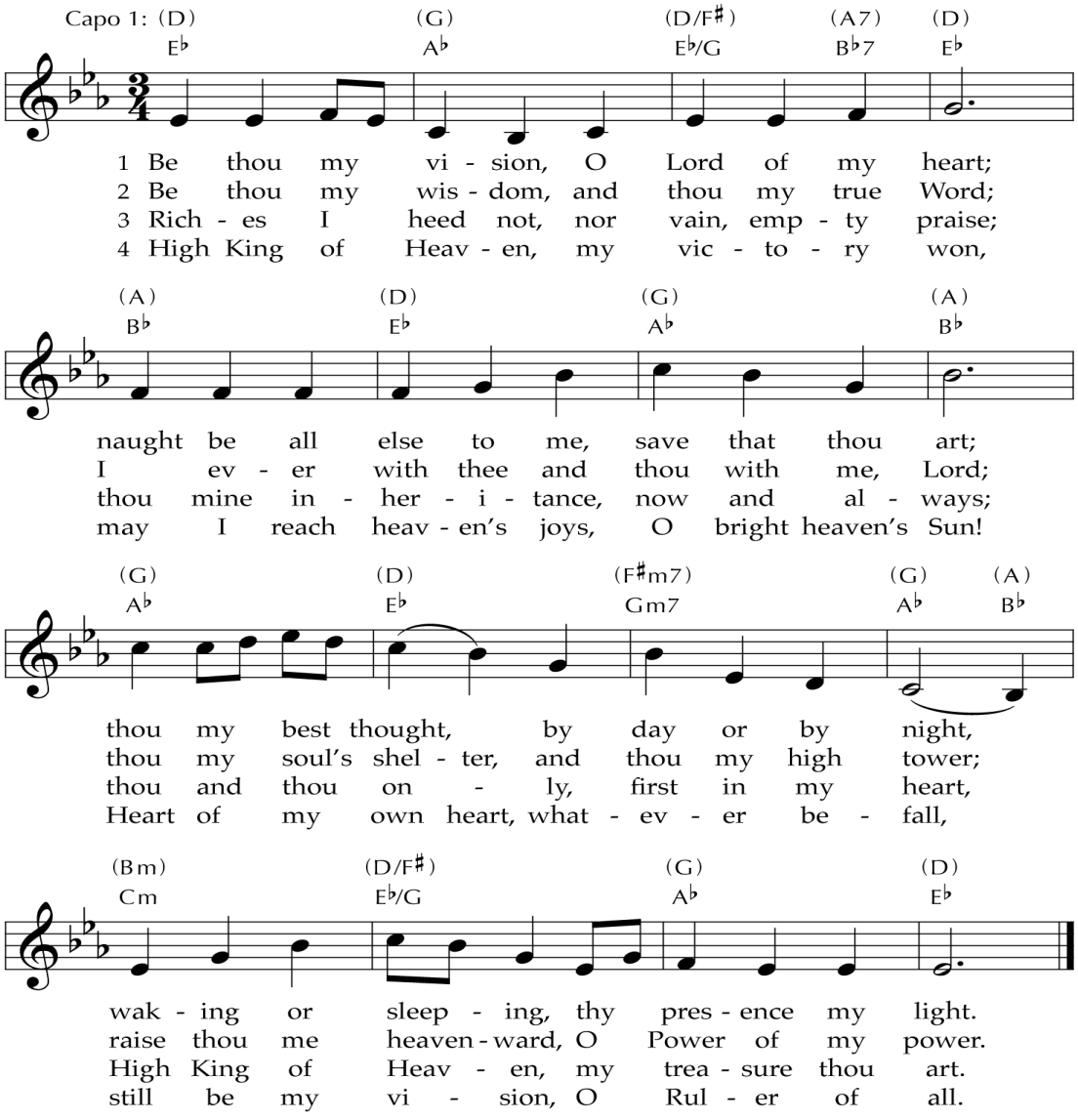
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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(link to the WPC 150th Anniversary webpage: **https://wpcwoo.org/150)**

THE WORD

450 Be Thou My Vision



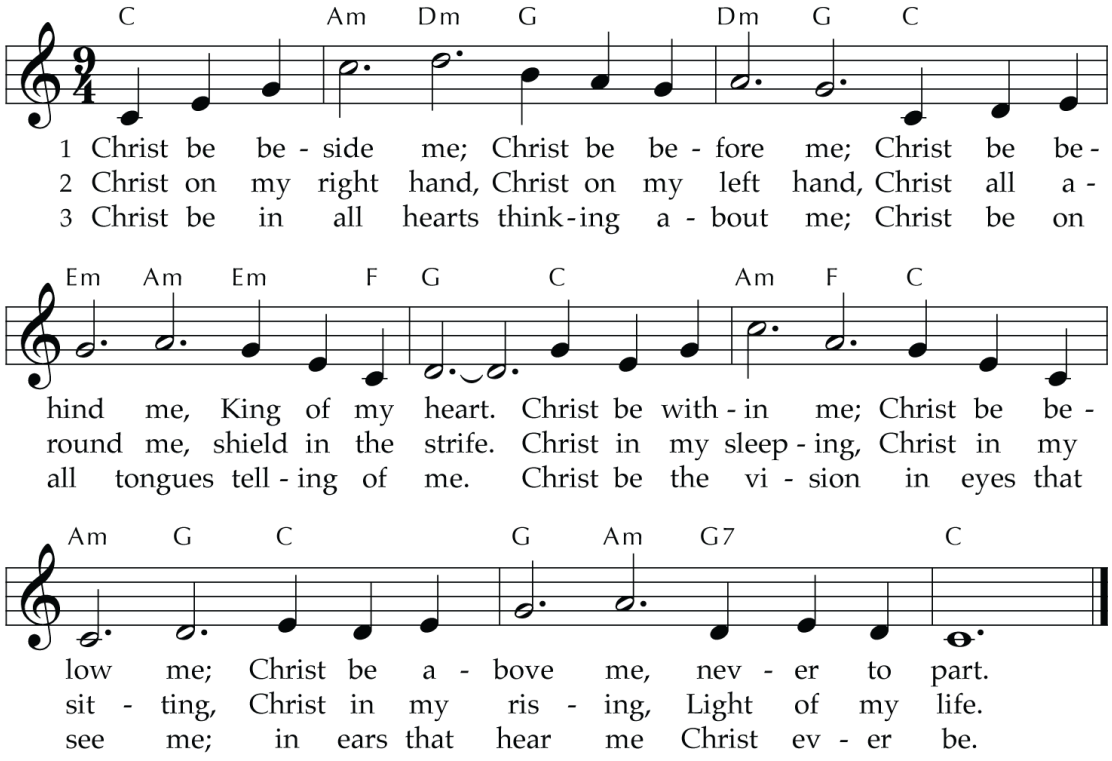
Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

TEXT: Irish poem; trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.
MUSIC: Irish ballad; harm. David Evans, 1927
Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

SLANE
10.10.10.10

Christ Be Beside Me 702

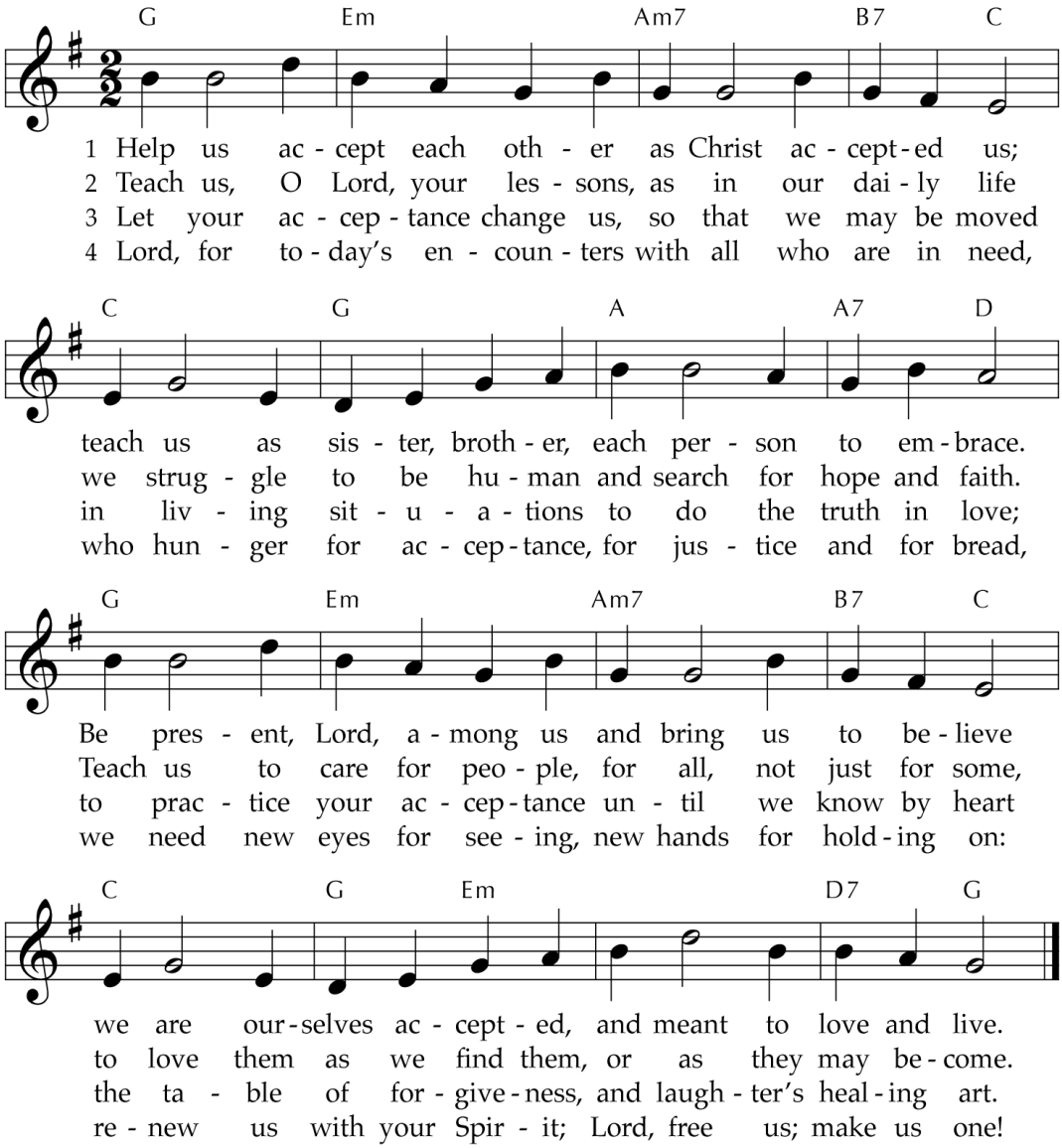


This text adapts part of a traditional Irish prayer associated with St. Patrick (see also no. 6). Such a prayer for protection is known as a *lorica,* from a Latin word for "breastplate" or "armor." It is set to a Gaelic melody that gained wide popularity in the 1970s.

TEXT: James Quinn, SJ, 1969
MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985
Music Arr. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

BUNESSAN
5.5.5.4.D

Help Us Accept Each Other 754



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1974
MUSIC: Doreen Potter, 1974
Text and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

BARONITA
7.6.7.6.D

802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(Psalm 23)



5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Since its creation in the mid-19th century, this text has been one of the favorite paraphrases of Psalm 23 in the English-speaking world. That popularity increased in the early 20th century when *The English Hymnal,* 1906, first joined these words to this flowing Irish melody.

TEXT: Henry Williams Baker, 1868
MUSIC: Irish melody; harm. *The English Hymnal,* 1906, alt.

ST. COLUMBA
8.7.8.7