Westminster
Presbyterian Church
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Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 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.

Minute for Mission for the 150th Anniversary Planning — **Bill Weiss**

Prelude — **"Prelude #4"(from 12 Short Preludes)** — ***J.S. Bach***

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

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

In this holy ordinary place,
with these holy ordinary people,
God appears.
In this holy ordinary time,
in this holy ordinary life,
God is doing amazing, unexpected things.
In our holy ordinary hospitality,
in our holy ordinary laughter,
God catches us unawares,
and provides the impossible.

Opening Prayer — **Cheryl Weiss**

God of promises and surprises,
we cannot imagine what you have in mind,
we can only trust that you remember us,

you take note of your world and its needs and longings,
and you will fulfil your promise.
As you appeared to Abraham and Sarah
bearing a message they could hardly believe,
appear to us again this day and make us ready to receive.
We ask in your holy name.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 54 "Make a Joyful Noise to God!" *Dix

Call to Confession Bill Weiss

The Psalmist says that God knows us more intimately
than we know our own thoughts and God loves us as we are.
So let us confess our failures, our fears and our hopes to God
so we may find peace and renewal.

Prayer of Confession Bill Weiss

**You appear among us, O God, and we confess that we do not always look up to see,
nor do we spring into action in welcome.
When we do look, we are afraid of what we see.
We close our ears and laugh it off when you call our names.**

**When we are too wrapped up in our own concerns to recognize you, forgive us.
When we are too certain, and there is no room for your mystery, forgive us.
When we have locked our doors, our minds, and our hearts, forgive us.
Show us your face again, living God.
Teach us to see, and to welcome you in. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 288 "Spirit of the Living God" (*sung twice*) *Living God*

Assurance of Forgiveness **Bill Weiss**

Beloveds,
God's love and mercy are always ready for us,
offering forgiveness, healing, and new beginnings – until we can sing with Sarah:
"God has brought us laughter.
All who hear about this will laugh with us."
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Musical Offering **"Largo" (from Concerto for Two Violins)** *J.S. Bach*
Arr. by J. Lanning

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 **Genesis 18:1-15 (CEB)** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

18 The Lord appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he sat at the entrance of his tent
in the day's heat. 2 He looked up and suddenly saw three men standing near him. As soon as he
saw them, he ran from his tent entrance to greet them and bowed deeply. 3 He said, "Sirs, if you
would be so kind, don't just pass by your servant. 4 Let a little water be brought so you may wash
your feet and refresh yourselves under the tree. 5 Let me offer you a little bread so you will feel
stronger, and after that you may leave your servant and go on your way—since you have visited
your servant."

They responded, "Fine. Do just as you have said."

6 So Abraham hurried to Sarah at his tent and said, "Hurry! Knead three seahs of the finest flour
and make some baked goods!" 7 Abraham ran to the cattle, took a healthy young calf, and gave
it to a young servant, who prepared it quickly. 8 Then Abraham took butter, milk, and the calf
that had been prepared, put the food in front of them, and stood under the tree near them as
they ate.

9 They said to him, “Where’s your wife Sarah?”
And he said, “Right here in the tent.”
10 Then one of the men said, “I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!”

Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating.12 So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, I’m no longer able to have children and my husband’s old.

13 The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Me give birth? At my age?’ 14 Is anything too difficult for the Lord? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son.”

15 Sarah lied and said, “I didn’t laugh,” because she was frightened.
But he said, “No, you laughed.”

Sermon **And Sara Laughed** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

***Hymn No. 686** **“God of Our Life”**
Sandon

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

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

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. 547 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" *Ar Hydy Nos*

Benediction Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy

Postlude "A Toye" *Giles*
Farnaby

The service continues with fellowship.

* The call to confession and assurance of forgiveness were written by Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy. All other prayers were adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson, who creates liturgy for the *Bibleworm Narrative Lectionary Collaborative.*

*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.

*Music: Karolyn Rice, organ

*Sunday Service Assistants/Treats: Bill and Cheryl Weiss

*Flowers: Lemoine and Tim Peart

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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. 17

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

Monday, Sept. 18

- Troop 61 – 6 pm – Mackey Hall

Wednesday, Sept. 20

- Session Meeting – 6.30 pm – The Lounge

Thursday, Sept. 21

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place
- Personnel Committee Meeting – 5.30 pm – The Lounge
- Wooster Interfaith Justice meeting and movie screening of "The Letter" – 6.30 pm – Mackey Hall

Saturday, Sept. 23

- Muskingum Valley Presbytery Stated Meeting – 1-3.30 pm – Wayne Presbyterian Church

Sunday, Sept. 24

- 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
Custodian Kara Akers

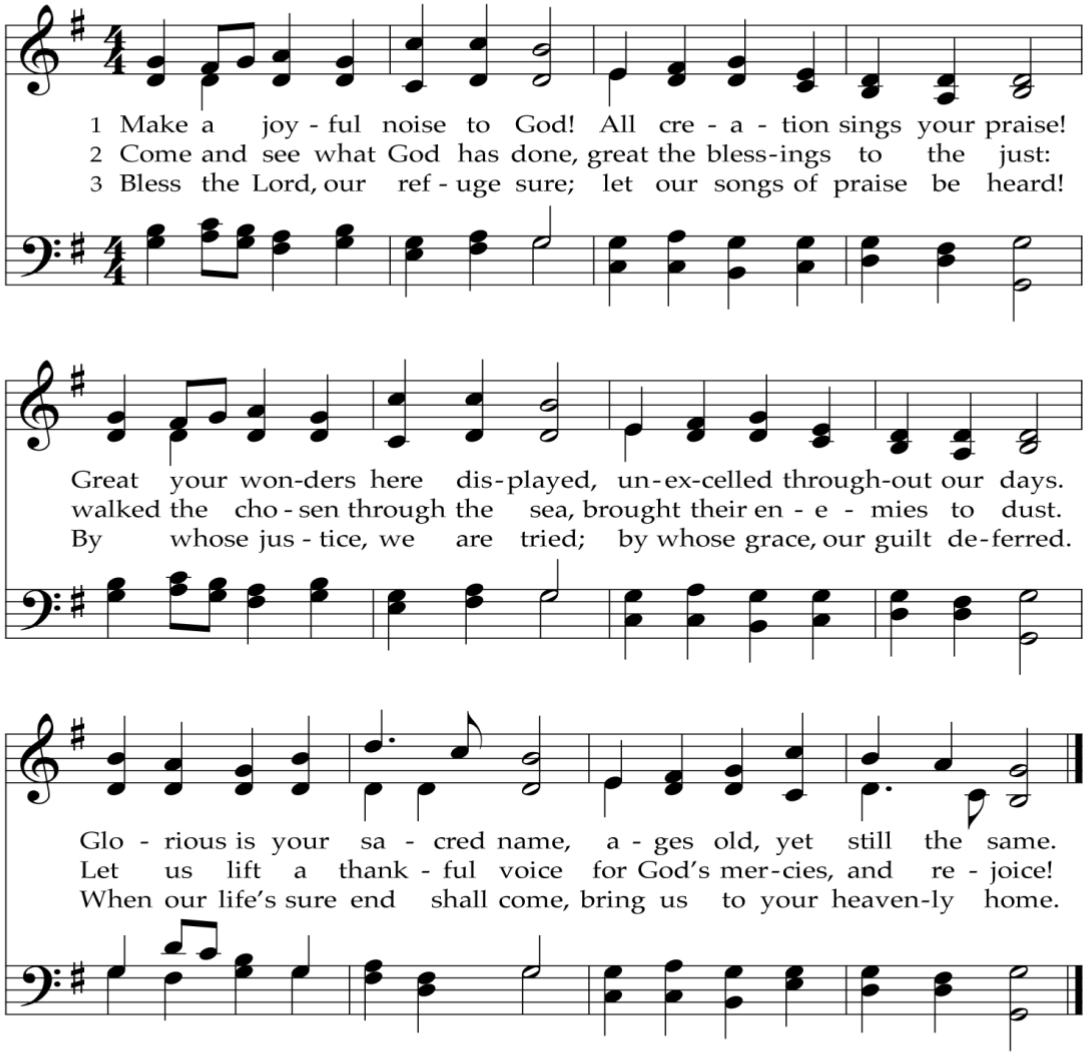
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

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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.

Make a Joyful Noise to God! 54

(Psalm 66)



This paraphrase of Psalm 66 maintains a corporate tone more suitable for congregational singing than does the original psalm, which moves to a personal narrative in its latter part. The reference to "all creation" is strengthened by the associations of the tune (see no. 14).

TEXT: Michael Morgan, 1995, alt.
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX
7.7.7.7.7.7

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Spirit of the Living God 288



KOREAN

살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
빚으시고 채우소서
살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서

SPANISH

Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
Tómame, cámbiame, llename, úsame.
Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.

Both the words and the music of this prayer-song were written by a Presbyterian minister from Tarboro, North Carolina. The words were initially inspired by Jeremiah 18:1–6; a friend helped him set them to music during an evangelistic meeting in Orlando, Florida, where the song was first sung.

TEXT: Daniel Iverson, 1926; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee; Spanish trans. anon.
MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926
LIVING GOD
Irregular

Text and Music © 1935 Birdwing Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)
Korean Trans. © 2001 Birdwing Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)

God of Our Life 686



This text was created for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by its pastor. He wrote these words especially for this tune, originally composed for John Henry Newman's text "Lead, Kindly Light."

TEXT: Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916, alt.
MUSIC: Charles Henry Purday, 1860; harm. John Weaver, 1986
SANDON
10.4.10.4.10.10

Text © 1928 F. M. Braselman, ren. 1956 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)
Music Harm. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

SENDING

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