



Westminster
Presbyterian Church

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**Fourth Sunday
after Pentecost
June 16, 2024**

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

Let us open our hearts and minds to the rhythm of the gathering music

Prelude

**“Bereite dich, Zion” (from *Christmas Oratorio*)
Madison Barrett (mezzo soprano); Ken Shafer, piano**

J. S. Bach

Prepare yourself, Zion, with tender efforts, to behold your lovely one, your beloved,
near you soon! Your cheeks must now glow much more radiantly;
hurry to love the Bridegroom with passion!

***Gathering Words**

Cheryl Weiss

God calls each of us —
understanding or confused,
powerful or trembling,
fully focused on the spiritual life or busy with other things,
even those usually overlooked or left out,
every single one of us is called, invited, and needed
for God’s purpose to be fulfilled.

***Opening Prayer**

Cheryl Weiss

Let us pray ...

Take hold of us today, O God.
May your Spirit so grip our hearts, and our attention,
that we cannot help but fix our eyes on you.

Wherever you are at work among us this day,
whether it makes sense to us or not,
whether it fits into our understanding of you or not,
make us ready to receive your new word, and act on it.
Amen.

***Opening Hymn No. 401**

"Here in This Place"

Gather Us In

Call to Confession

Bill Weiss

*When we least expect it, even when we are not ready, God comes to us, calling us to trust,
calling us to follow. So come, let us confess the ways we have strayed from God and one another...*

Prayer of Confession

Bill Weiss

**You look on the heart, O God,
and yet we confess that we continue to look mainly on what we can see.
Though we proclaim "judge not,"
we often judge based on our first impressions.**

**We say "beauty is on the inside"
while with our next breath
we hold one another to standards created for profit.
We avert our eyes or lock our doors
when we encounter "them"
and we give leadership roles to those who "look the part."**

**Forgive us, O God, for saying one thing and doing another.
Forgive us when we assume your call is only for some,
and when we insist that power can reside
only in particular kinds of bodies.**

**Forgive us, and create in us a clean heart,
that we may learn and teach your way. Amen.**

Silent Confession

The prophet reminds us of God's promise:
**I will remove from your body the heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.**

God's grace and mercy cleanses and molds,
fills and transforms us.
**May we be clay in the hands of the potter,
becoming God's into a new creation.**

***The Peace**

*In God's amazing grace is our only peace.
Forgiven once again by grace, let us participate in God's peace together.
I invite you to turn to the people around you and share the peace of God with one another.*

*"The Peace of Christ be with you."
And also with you.*

***Musical Offering No. 701**

"Lord, Prepare Me"

Sanctuary

(sung multiple times)

"Kindeslächeln" (A Child's Smile - from Simple Melodies)

Max Reger

When my baby in its cradle softly smiles while dreaming there,
Lovely angels hover round it in God's kingdom bright and fair.
When I its smile am watching, thoughts fly far from earthly ways.
Lovely angels seem to whisper heavenly dreams of childhood's days!

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. Enikő Ferenczy

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 16: 1-13 (NRSV)

Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

¹6The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."

⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."

¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Sermon

Clay in the Potter's Hand

Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

Hymn No. 287

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

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Cheryl and Bill Weiss

Litany of Blessing for Pastor Enikő's Travel

Cheryl and Bill Weiss

O God of life, of all life and each life,
we lay our lives before you.

All: We give our lives to you from whom nothing in us is hidden.

Watch over Pastor Enikő, we pray.

All: May she travel carefully, but unafraid, and safely reach her destinations.

Guide her and the officials she interacts with.

**All: May all plans fall into place smoothly and
may this be a joyful time of reconnecting with family.**

Enikő: Watch over Westminster Church during these next weeks, we pray.

Guide those who will share your Word, your love and care here while I travel.

**All: Teach us that we never journey beyond your loving care,
revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our friend, our light, our Life.**

Renew our trust in you. Today. Tomorrow and Always. Amen.

Prayer of the People

Cheryl and Bill Weiss

With the hope of people who hear God's call, 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. 698

"Take, O Take Me as I Am"

Fill My Cup

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

Postlude

"Die Engel singen"
(The Angels Sing - from Weihnachtslieder)

Engelbert Humperdinck

The service continues with fellowship.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.

*The Gathering Words were adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson.

All other prayers were written by Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy.

*Sunday service assistants: Cheryl and Bill Weiss

*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Madison Barrett, *mezzo-soprano*; Ken Shafer, piano

***Madison Barrett**, *mezzo-soprano*, returns to Wooster for a second season with OLO. A native of Orlando, FL, Madison is currently based in the Midwest and studying for a Doctor of Musical Arts degree (DMA). Madison is an avid hiker and is excited to renew her acquaintance with the trails of Wooster.



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, June 16

- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10:30 am – The Meeting Place

Monday, June 17

- Scout Troop 61 – 6:30 pm – Mackey Hall
- Rally for Peace – 6:30-7:30 pm – Wooster City Hall

Thursday, June 20

- Dance and Exercise – 8:30 am – Mackey Hall

Sunday, June 23

- 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

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Here in This Place

Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
 van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
 brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
 Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and
 blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,
 we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Lord, Prepare Me

701

Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
 ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,
 I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

The lines given here convey the central message of the longer song for which they form the refrain. The principal Scripture reference is 1 Corinthians 3:16–17, Paul's reminder to the Christians at Corinth that "[they] are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in [them]."

TEXT: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982

MUSIC: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982; arr. Nylea L. Butler-Moore

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SANCTUARY

Irregular

287 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing;
 2 Come to teach us; come to nour - ish
 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing
 4 Not mere knowl - edge, but dis - cern - ment,
 5 Keep us fer - vent in our wit - ness,

fash - ion us all a - new. It's your lead - ing
 those who be - lieve in Christ. Bless the faith - ful;
 done in your ho - ly name. Mo - ti - vate all
 nor root - less lib - er - ty; turn dis - qui - et
 un - swayed by earth's al - lure. Ev - er grant us

that we're need - ing; help us to fol - low you.
 may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
 in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.
 to con - tent - ment, doubt in - to cer - tain - ty.
 zeal - ous fit - ness, which you a - lone as - sure.

Refrain
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 Njo - o, njo - o, nj - oo, Ro - ho mwe - ma.

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

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a half note 'Take,' followed by a quarter note 'O', a quarter note 'take', a quarter note 'me', a quarter note 'as', a half note 'I', and a half note 'am;'. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The second system continues the vocal line with a half note 'sum-mon', a quarter note 'out', a quarter note 'what', a quarter note 'I', and a half note 'shall'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same pattern. The third system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a half note 'be;', followed by a quarter note 'set', a quarter note 'your', a quarter note 'seal', a quarter note 'up-on', a quarter note 'my', a quarter note 'heart', a quarter note 'and', a quarter note 'live', a quarter note 'in', and a half note 'me.'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same pattern. The score ends with a double bar line.

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).