Westminster Presbyterian Church

August 29, 2021
14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Prelude Prelude on "Afton Water" TRAD./ ARR. JAMES SOUTHBRIDGE

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** *Based on Song of Solomon 2* **Janelle Collier**
*The * in the liturgy indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

Here, our Beloved speaks to us;
the voice of our Beloved sounds in our hearts:
calling us to generous acts, to share the gifts we have been given.
In every place, in every moment, our Beloved speaks to us;
the voice of our Beloved sounds in all creation:
calling us to generous acts, to stand with God's people:
the least, the lost, the little, the last.

***Opening Prayer**

Creator God,
You have loved us passionately into being.
We come today seeking your presence
and to know we are your beloved.
Enter our sanctuary and enter our hearts
that we may look into your loving gaze
and see ourselves reflected there, as you see us.
Let our love for you reflect and mirror your perfect love
as we gather as your Beloved Community.
Amen.

***Opening Hymn No. 610** O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing AZMON
verses 1-3, 5

Call to Confession **Jim Collier**

Do we honor God only with our lips, while keeping our hearts from the Holy One? Do we deceive ourselves, thinking we are religious rather than living faithful lives? Let us confess to God our sin, trusting in the One who seeks to make us whole.

Prayer of Confession/Truth Telling **Jim Collier**

Holy One, we hear your words every day, but find it hard to live them out daily. Our anger roars like a flooded creek, but our forgiveness drips like a rusty faucet. Our impetuous tongues rush to judgment, while our words of hope sound like a sluggish soundtrack. We listen with impatient ears to the cries of the poor.
Fount of grace, may your mercy fall on us like a summer shower on parched grass. May your hope overflow our hearts. May we find our way to life in fullness through your Beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness **Jim Collier**

Listen and understand—
The voice of the Beloved speaks to us,
implanting the word of hope, the word of grace, and the word of forgiveness into our hearts.

We listen and understand.
Every gift comes from God, especially the gifts of mercy and love.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven
and empowered to share God's gifts in the world.
Amen.

Musical Response Meditation on "Serenity" WILLIAM WALLACE/ARR. LANI SMITH

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

Scripture Reading James 1:17-27

17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the God of lights,
with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 In fulfillment of God's own purpose God gave us
birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of God's creatures.

19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for
your anger does not produce God's righteousness. 21 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth
of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23 For if any are hearers of the word
and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24 for they look at themselves and, on
going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of
liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is
worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God is this: to care for orphans and widows in their
distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Sermon Attuned to the Voice of the Beloved **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

***Hymn** As a Fire is Meant for Burning HYFRYDOL
Words by Ruth C. Duck

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame
So the Church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Preaching Christ, and not our customs,
Let us build a bridge of care,
Joining hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle loving actions we should show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit, we will live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,
So may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many-hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
So may we reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

Prayer of the People **Jim and Janelle Collier**

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. 693** Though I May Speak GIFT OF LOVE

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

Postlude Andante Con Moto ALEXANDRE GUILMANT/ARR. DAVID PAXTON
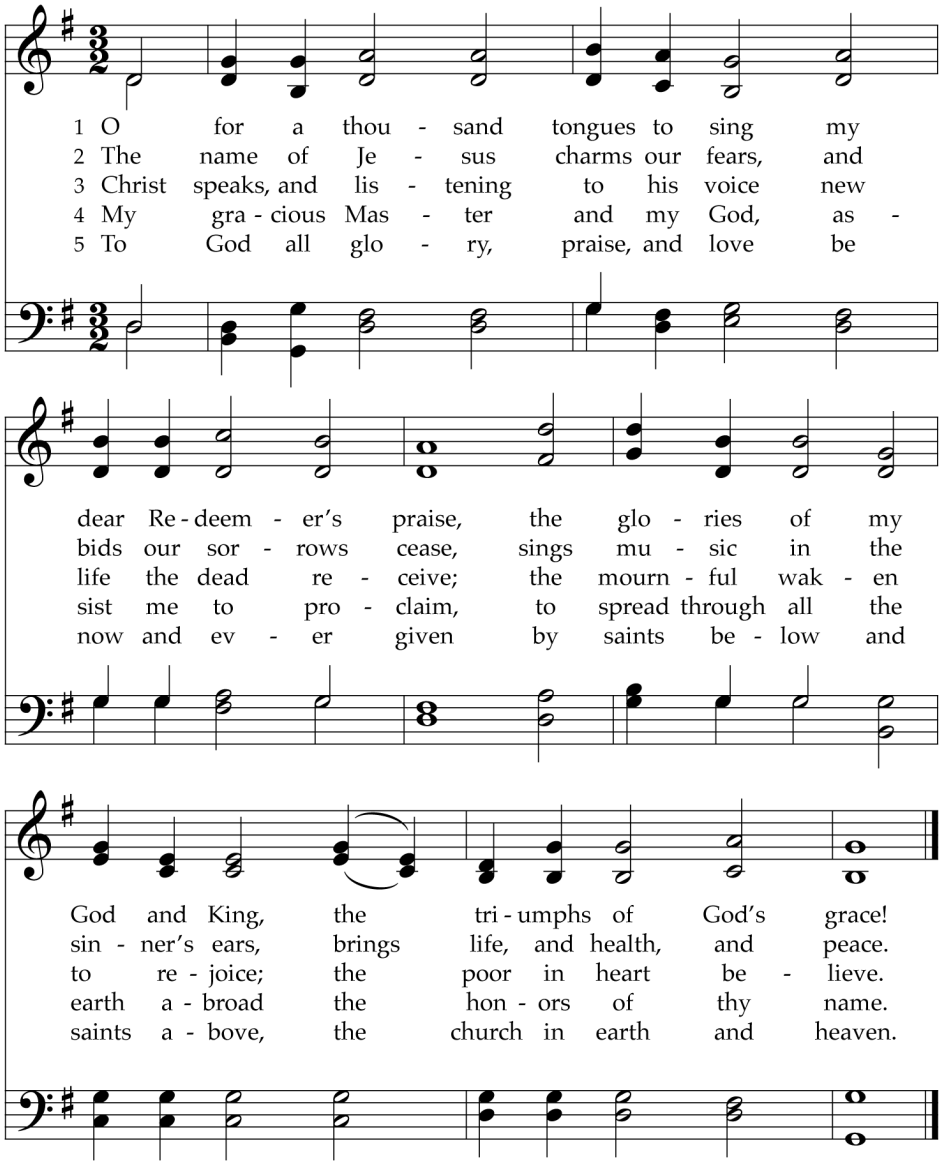
The service continues with refreshments and fellowship.

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 adapted from Thom Shuman.
Music: Ken Shafer – Piano, Organ.

Sunday Service Assistant is Lynne Hamrick.
Refreshments provided by Lynne Hamrick.
Flowers provided by Dorothy Iams.

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 610



SPANISH

1 Mil voces para celebrar
a mi Libertador,
las glorias de su majestad,
los triunfos de su amor.

KOREAN

1 만 입이 내게 있으면
그 입 다 가지고
내 구주 주신 은총을
늘 찬송하겠네
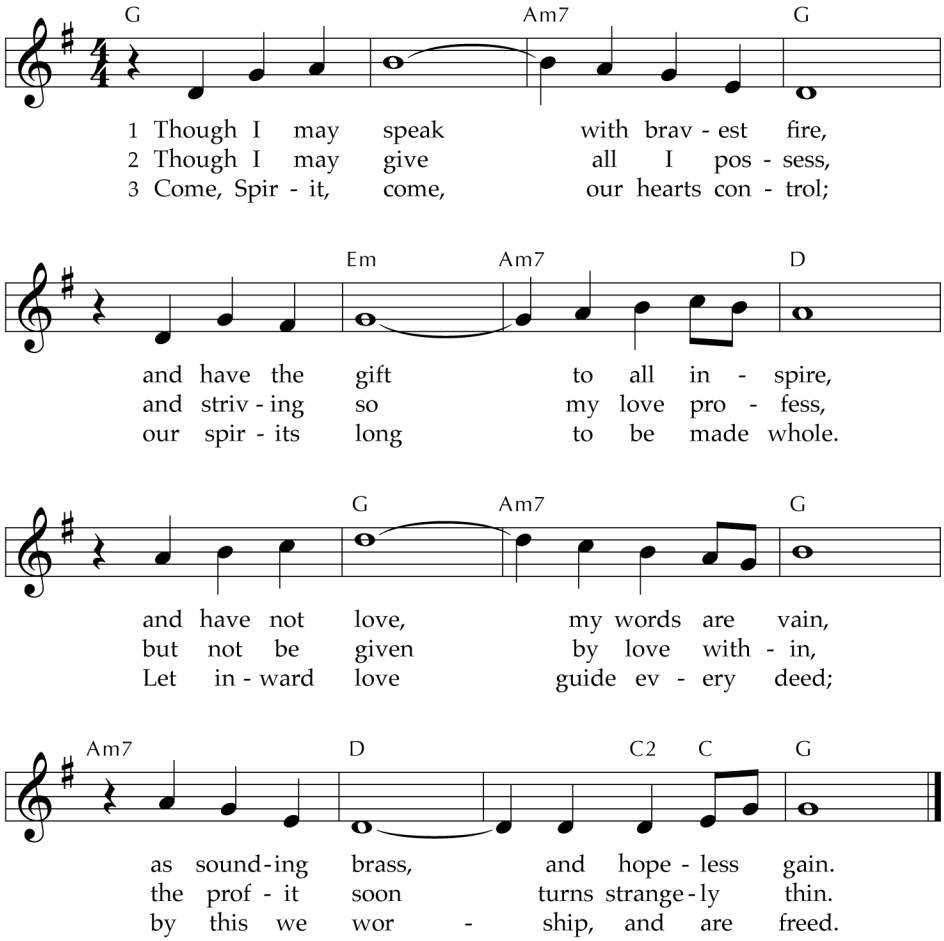
This text comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn the author wrote to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide. This tune, adapted from a German composer, is the usual North American setting.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.; Spanish trans. Federico J. Pagura; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001
MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839
AZMON
CM

Spanish Trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)
Korean Trans. © 2001 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

Though I May Speak 693

The Gift of Love



As paraphrases of 1 Corinthians 13:1, 3 the first two stanzas here are in the first person singular, yet they lead into a plural prayer for the gift of such love, for it thrives in community. These words are especially poignant with this adaptation of an English folk melody.

TEXT: Hal H. Hopson, 1972
MUSIC: English folk melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1972
Text and Music © 1972 Hope Publishing Company

GIFT OF LOVE
LM

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Office Administrator Judy Mowrer
Interim Music Director Pong Thiemmedh
Worship Accompanist Ken Shafer
Custodian Kara Akers

353 East Pine Street, Wooster, OH 4469, Phone: 330-263-2398
Office Hours: 9am–noon, Tuesday through Friday
Website: www.wpcwooster.org or www.facebook.com/wpcwooster

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.