Westminster
Presbyterian Church
353 E. Pine St., Wooster, OH. 44691
330-263-2398 / wpcwooster.org

April 9, 2023
Easter Sunday
Communion

Welcome and Announcements — **Rev. Dr. Enikő 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 — **Festive Easter Prelude** — ***David German***

Ken Shafer, organ

***Gathering Words** — **Madeline Fields Halva**

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

What are you looking for?
The light before dawn.
What are you looking for?
A reason to hope.
What are you looking for?
Joy after grief and flowers after winter.
What are you looking for?
A place to belong.
What are you looking for?
We are looking for the Messiah.
Good news! Come in. Love is alive!
Surely God is in this place.

***Opening Prayer** — **Madeline Fields Halva**

Let us pray…

Rabbouni, Teacher,
We have spent the past six weeks asking questions.

We have turned over every rock.
We have shined a light in every dusty corner.
We have opened the blinds.
We have wrestled with truth.
We have sought after you.

So on this Easter morning,
bring wisdom to our seeking.
Move through this room
until the walls echo with the sound of alleluias.
Roll back the stones that might prevent us from drawing closer to you.
Calm our hearts. Say our names.
Awaken us to your presence in our midst.
We are here.
We are listening.
We are seeking after you.
Alleluia. Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 245 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" *Charles Wesley text*
(*Lyrics on Proclaim; traditional tune from U. Methodist Hymnal)*
Gabriel Chupp, trumpet

Call to Confession Madeline Fields Halva

Friends, we seek after God. We swear that we're looking, and yet so often we miss when the Divine is right under our noses. So let us pray together, knowing that our seeking has its limits, but God's love does not. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession Madeline Fields Halva

God of resurrection,
We confess, like a dog with a bone, we run aimlessly.
We chase our tails, looking for things that provide answers
to the suffering of the world, looking for comfort to our longest nights.
You meet us in the darkness before dawn, but we mistake you for the gardener.

Forgive us for seeking after worldly ways instead of yours.
Speak to us. Call us by name, that we might recognize you in our midst.
With hope and gratitude we pray, amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 544 **"Bless the Lord"**
Taizé

(sung multiple times)

Assurance of Forgiveness **Madeline Fields Halva**

Family of faith,
No matter how many times we lose sight of God, God never loses sight of us.
We might spend our whole days seeking, but we are always found.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel, the good news proclaimed in resurrection:

What once was lost is found.
We are held in God's loving embrace: forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve.
Alleluia! Amen.

Musical Offering **"Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing"** ***M. Vulpius, arr. D. Busarow***
WPC Choir

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 **John 20:1-18 (Common English Bible)**

20 Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to
the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 She ran to Simon Peter and
the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and
we don't know where they've put him." 3 Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. 4 They
were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the
tomb. 5 Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in.
6 Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. 7 He also saw the
face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own
place. 8 Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and
believed. 9 They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. 10 Then the
disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

11 Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. 12 She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. 13 The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." 14 As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."
She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means *Teacher*).

17 Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

Sermon **Seeking: What are We Looking for?** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Hymn **"Who are you looking for?"** ***Terra Beata***
text by Rev. Anna Strickland (tune/"This is My Father's World")

Communion

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving **Madeline Fields Halva and Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Madeline: Resurrecting God,
Mary went to the garden looking for you.
Two thousand years later, we follow in her footsteps.
We seek after you, hungry for a garden moment where we might hear you say our name or feel you in our midst.

Eniko: So before the hallelujahs begin, we empty our pockets of our prayers
and remember where we've been.

With gratitude, we recall Maundy Thursday.
We are grateful for the tables we gather around,
for the friends that feel like family,
and for this church—which acts as our band of disciples.
We hold onto the reminder of you washing the disciples' feet that night, and trust that that same love extends to us.

Madeline: With sorrow, we recall Good Friday.
We grieve the depths of cruelty woven into that day— a cruelty so many in this hurting world know.
So, for those who are still caught in grief and loss, for those whose days have turned to night, relieve them of their suffering.
Find them in the crowd.
Wipe their tears.
Hold their grief for them
and point them toward peace.

Eniko: Now, with hope we enter into this Easter morning,
to find ourselves face-to-face with your good news.
Thank you for giving us reason to hope.
Thank you for the sunrise after a long night,
for the healing of bones and hearts,
for laughter that is contagious,
and for the joy felt in community.
Tether every gratitude and joy in our life back to you.

Madeline: And now, as we come to the Table,
just as Mary came to the tomb,
we ask that in every stage of our seeking, you would be near to us.
Pour out a double portion of your Spirit on this bread and cup and those gathered here that we might see you as clearly as Mary did.
And may this meal nourish us to build your kin-dom here.
Until that promised day, we pray together using the words you 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.

Words of Institution — **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion — **Madeline Fields Halva**

Where don't we seek after you, God?
We look for you in the mirror, in strangers, in sunrises, on mountain tops,
in the laughter of children, and in meals shared together.

We look for you on the city streets, in hospital rooms, in jail cells,
in poetry, and hymn melodies. We look for you everywhere!

Sometimes the seeking is hard,
but then at other times, we come to this Table and all are fed,
and all are welcomed, and there is room for everyone,
and no one is turned away or made to feel unworthy.
And in those moments we see you clearly.

So thank you for meeting us in our seeking. Please don't stop seeking us.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

***Closing Hymn No. 246** — **"Christ is Alive!"**
Truro

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

Postlude — **"Thine Be the Glory"** — *G.F. Handel, arr. L. Smith*

The service continues with fellowship.

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*The prayers were adapted from the Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Ken Shafer, organ; Gabriel Chupp, trumpet



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

Friday, April 7

- Office is closed
- Good Friday Interfaith Vigil – 1:30 pm – Wooster City Square service organized by Wooster Area Interfaith Partners
- Dance and Exercise – 7 pm – The Meeting Place

Sunday, April 9

- Easter Sunrise Service – 7.30 am – Westminster parking lot
- Easter breakfast – 8 am – Mackey Hall
- Choir rehearsal – 9 am – The Meeting Place
- Easter service with Communion – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place

Monday, April 10

- Office is closed

Thursday, April 13

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am– The Meeting Place
- Building Committee – 10 am – The Lounge

Sunday, April 16

- Contemplative prayer – 8.30 am – The Lounge
- 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. Jim Henery
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola
Custodian Kara Akers
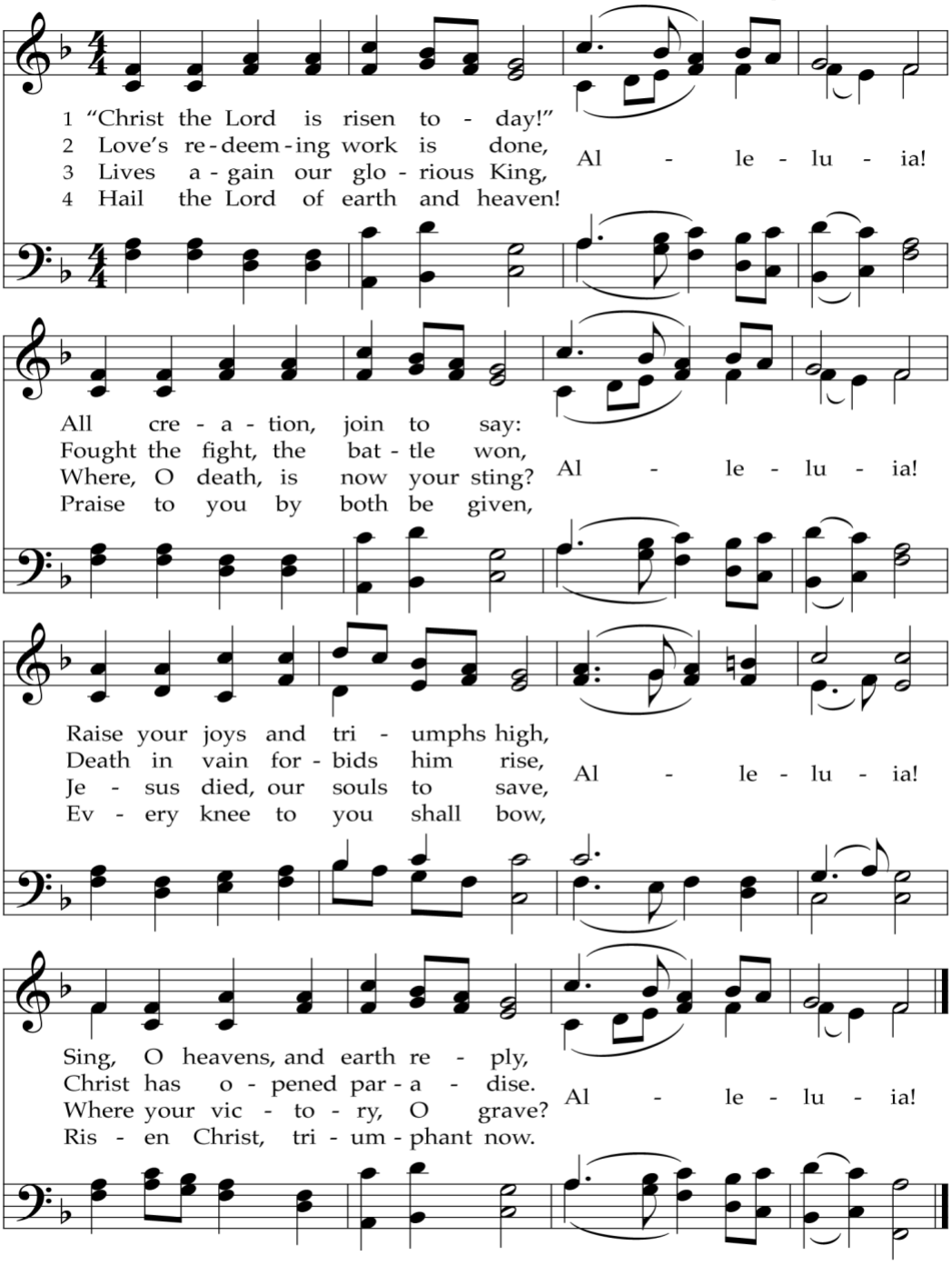
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

wpcwooster@gmail.com: 330.263.2398
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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.


seeking:
Who are you
looking for?

245 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!



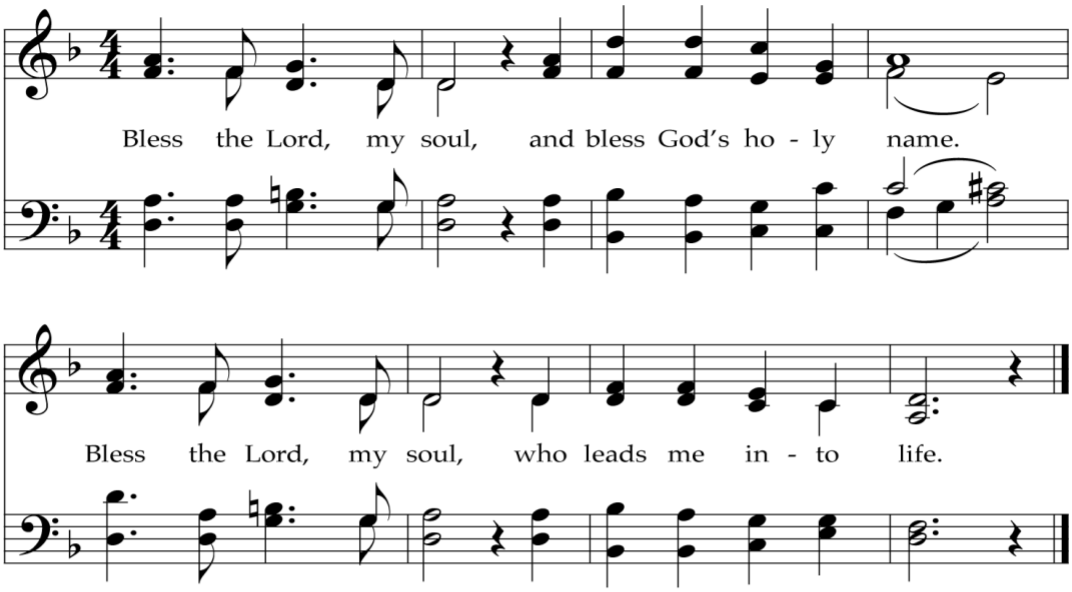
Originally printed as eleven four-line stanzas without alleluias, this Easter text was written during the first year following the author's life-changing conversion experience, yet it already shows his enduring emphasis on the theme of love. This lively Welsh tune sets it well.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: Robert Williams, 1817; harm. David Evans, 1927
Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

LLANFAIR
7.7.7.7 with alleluias

SENDING

544 Bless the Lord



This refrain based on Psalm 103:1 is meant for repeated singing. To "bless God's holy name" (which could not be spoken by observant Jews) is a reminder to be grateful even for what we cannot comprehend, trusting that God's providence will show us "the path of life" (Psalm 16:11).
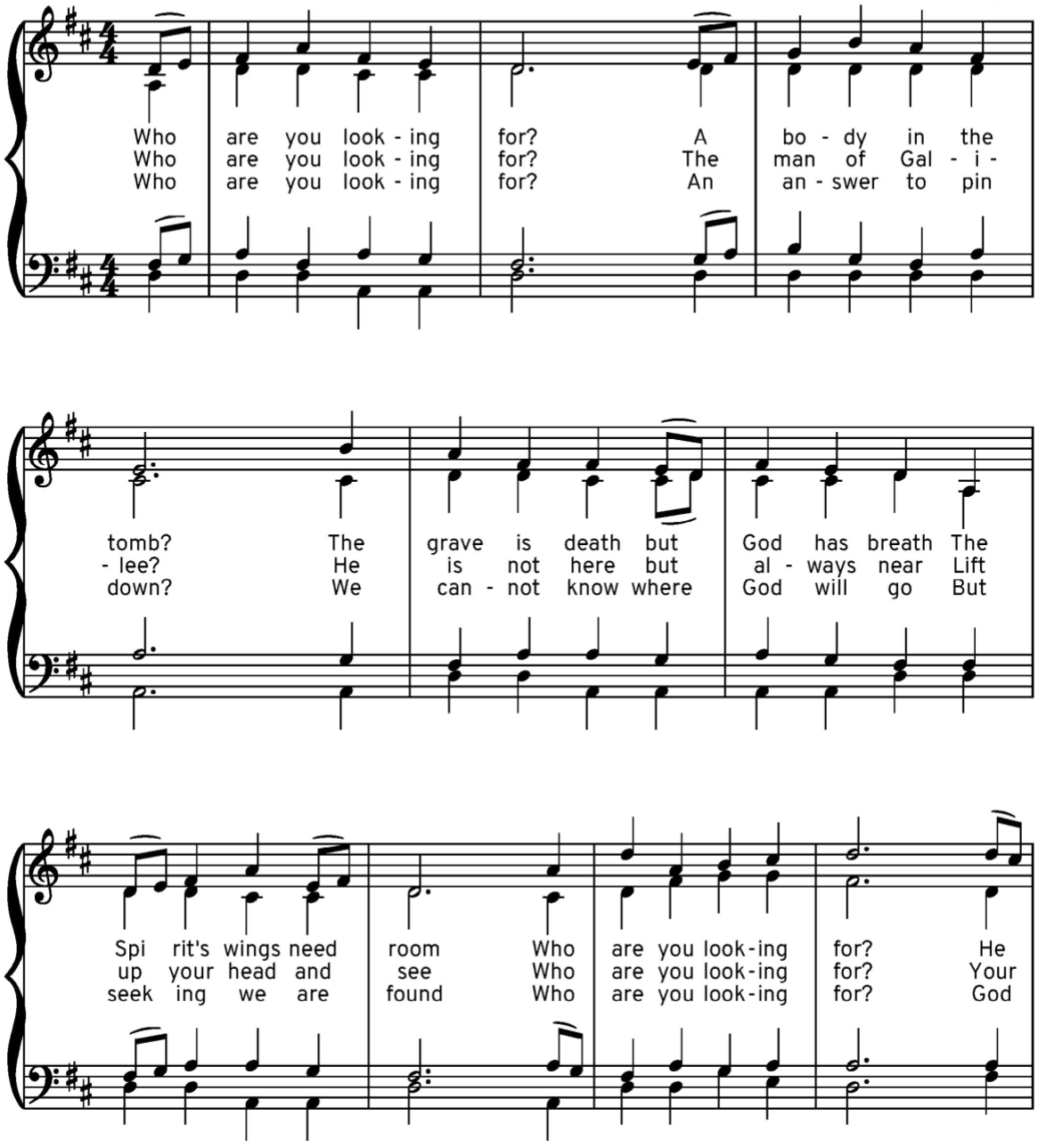
TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
Text and Music © 1984, 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

BLESS THE LORD (Taizé)
Irregular

who are you looking for?

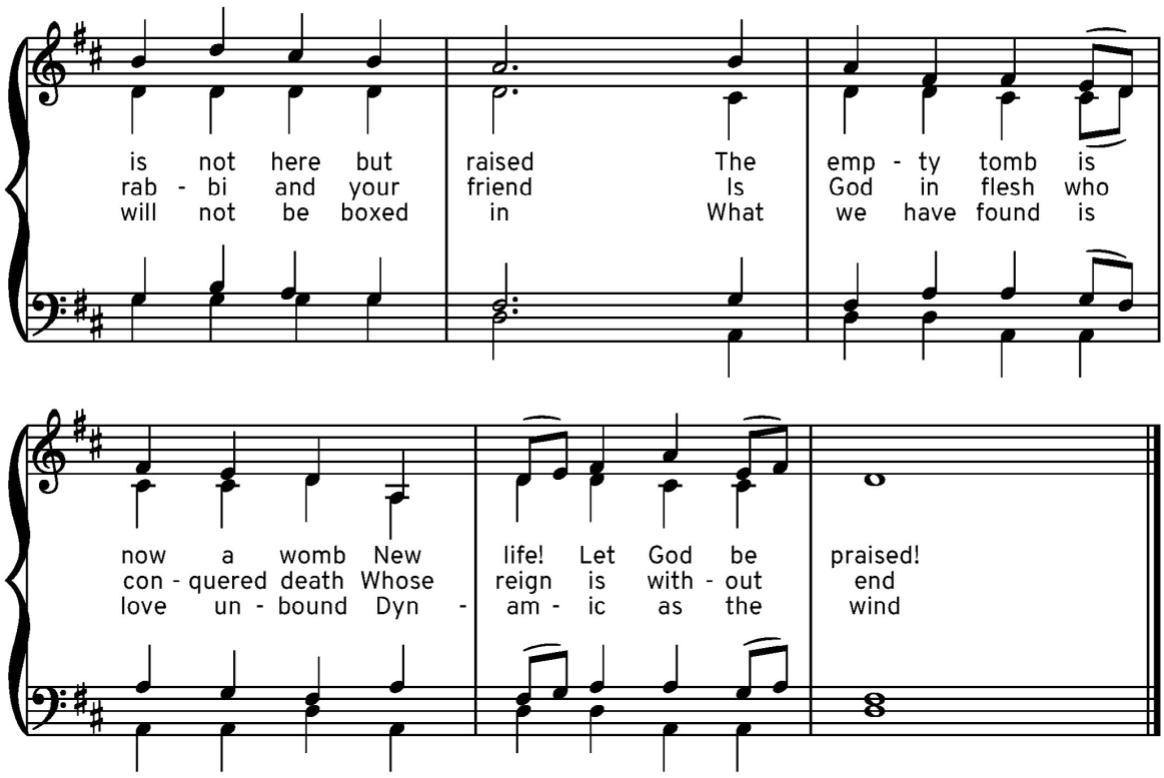
TERRA BEATA (*"This Is My Father's World"*)

Text: Anna Strickland (2022) Music: trad. English, arr. Franklin L. Sheppard
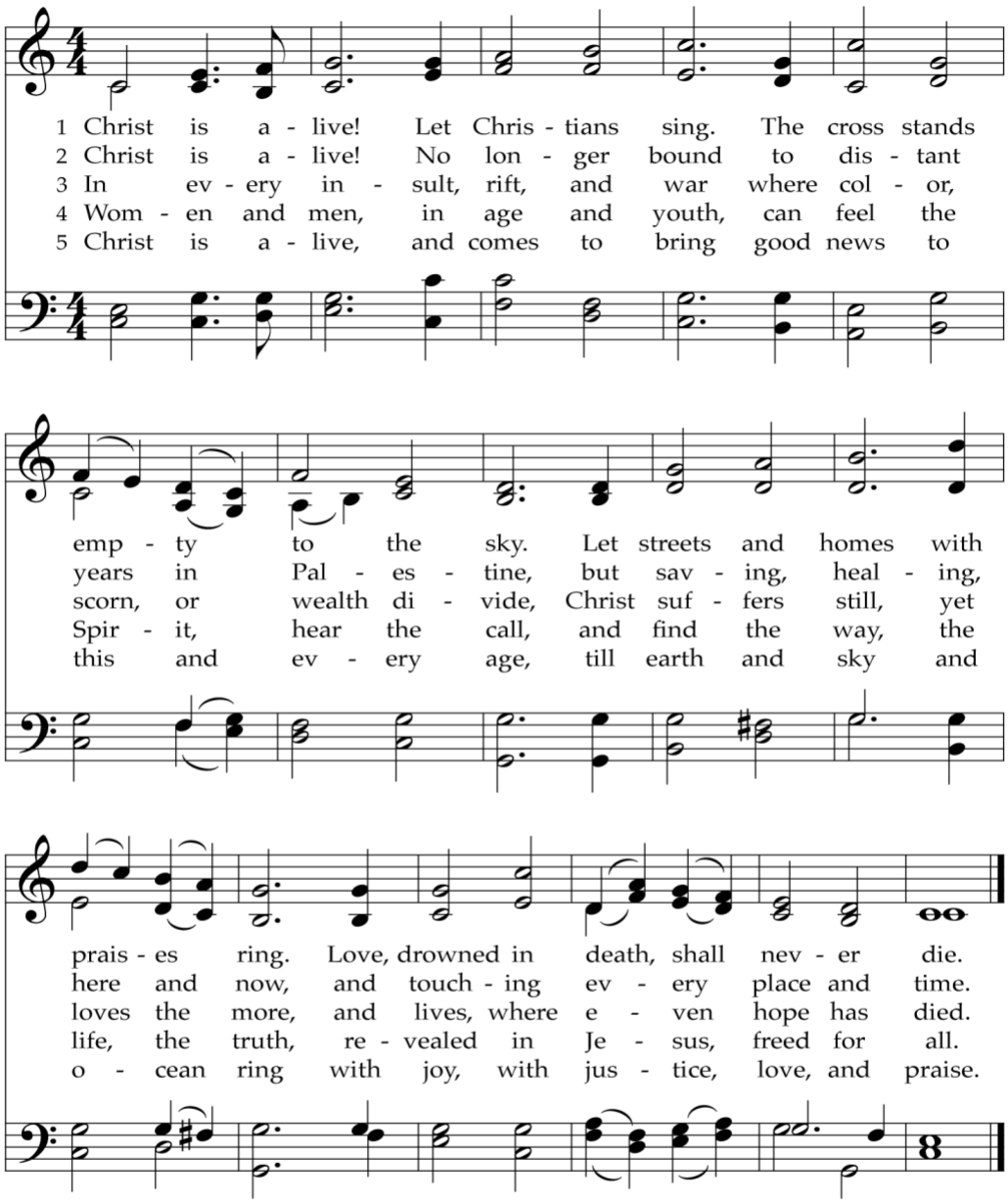


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Christ Is Alive! 246



In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968, rev. 1995
MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778
Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

TRURO
LM