Westminster
Presbyterian Church
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Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 14, 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 **"Noel in G Major"** ***Louis-Claude Daquin, arr. S. Scott***
Bob Iams, piano

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

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

Come, gather round—
All who seek comfort, hope, healing, vision.
Jesus, the Living Word of God, is here.

Come, and be filled—
God's power, grace, and mercy will sustain us on the journey.

Come, worship God—
Jesus invites us to new life with him.
We sing and offer praise.
We join you to bring wholeness and wellbeing for all.

Opening Prayer **Cheryl Weiss**

Into a broken world, living God,
you brought health and healing.
Into lifeless lives you brought love and energy.
Into our fears and failures, you brought reassurance.

Draw us today, gracious God,
Into the certainty of your promise to always be with us.
Teach us to walk in the ways of your compassion and love.
Again and again. Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 673 "Jesus, Light of Joy"** ***Lauda Anima

Call to Confession **Bill Weiss**

We think that you do not know our hearts, hear our words, see the mistakes we make, and the pain we cause, O God. You not only know us better than we know ourselves, but you are gracious and forgive. Hear us now, as we offer our lives and hearts to you, praying together, our prayer of confession…

Prayer of Confession **Bill Weiss**

Ever-with-us-God,
Forgive us when we look down on the very people you came to love and serve.
Forgive us when we resist to include all your people in our community.
Forgive us when we hold on to rituals, tradition, or systems that serve our interests, and may offer us comfort, yet we create impassable obstacles for many to experiencing your abundance.

Forgive us for the many times when your Body, the Church, does not reflect your life on earth.

Gather us in and open our hearts to sit at table with all your people, celebrating and creating the community of love you bring to fulfilment in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 435 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" ***In Babilone***

Assurance of Forgiveness **Bill Weiss**

Here is our forgiveness – it springs forth from God's heart to create new life for us.
Can we see it?

In Jesus Christ, all of God's promises are simply "Yes!"
Through Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and renewed.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Musical Offering **"Rejoice, Rejoice"** ***Swedish Folk Tune, arr. R. J. Powell***
Haf Trones Lampa Färdig

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 Readings **Mark 2:1-12 (NRSV)** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

2 When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. [2] So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. [3] Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.[4] And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. [5] When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven."

[6] Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts, [7] "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" [8] At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves, and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? [9] Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? [10] But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— [11] "I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home." [12] And he stood up

and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Sermon **Opening the Roof** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 157 **"I Danced in the Morning"** ***Lord of the Dance***

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. 339** **"Lift Every Voice and Sing"** ***Lift Every Voice
(poem by James Weldon Johnson, 1900)

Benediction **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Postlude **"Angels We Have Heard on High"** ***(Trad. French Carol)*** ***arr. J. Mansfield***

The service continues with fellowship.

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*The Gathering Words and Opening Prayer was written by Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy.
The Prayer of Confession was adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Bob Iams, piano
*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, Jan. 14

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

Monday, Jan. 15

- MLK Day – Office is closed
- COW Interfaith Prayer Brunch –11 am – 1 pm – Kittridge Hall
- Scout Troup 61 – 6:30 pm – Mackey Hall
- Wooster/Orrville NAACP MLK Community Celebration Service
  - 7 pm –First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, Jan. 17

- Session Meeting – 6.30 pm – The Lounge

Thursday, Jan. 18

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place

Sunday, Jan. 21

- 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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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.

CELEBRATING TIME

673 Jesus, Light of Joy



The images of light in this text are drawn from the ancient Christian vesper hymn *Phos hilaron,* which dates from at least the 3rd century. (For other versions, see nos. 671 and 672.) That rather brief original hymn is augmented here in the third stanza by language based on the *Sanctus.*

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009
MUSIC: John Goss, 1869
Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

LAUDA ANIMA
8.7.8.7.8.7

FORGIVENESS

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



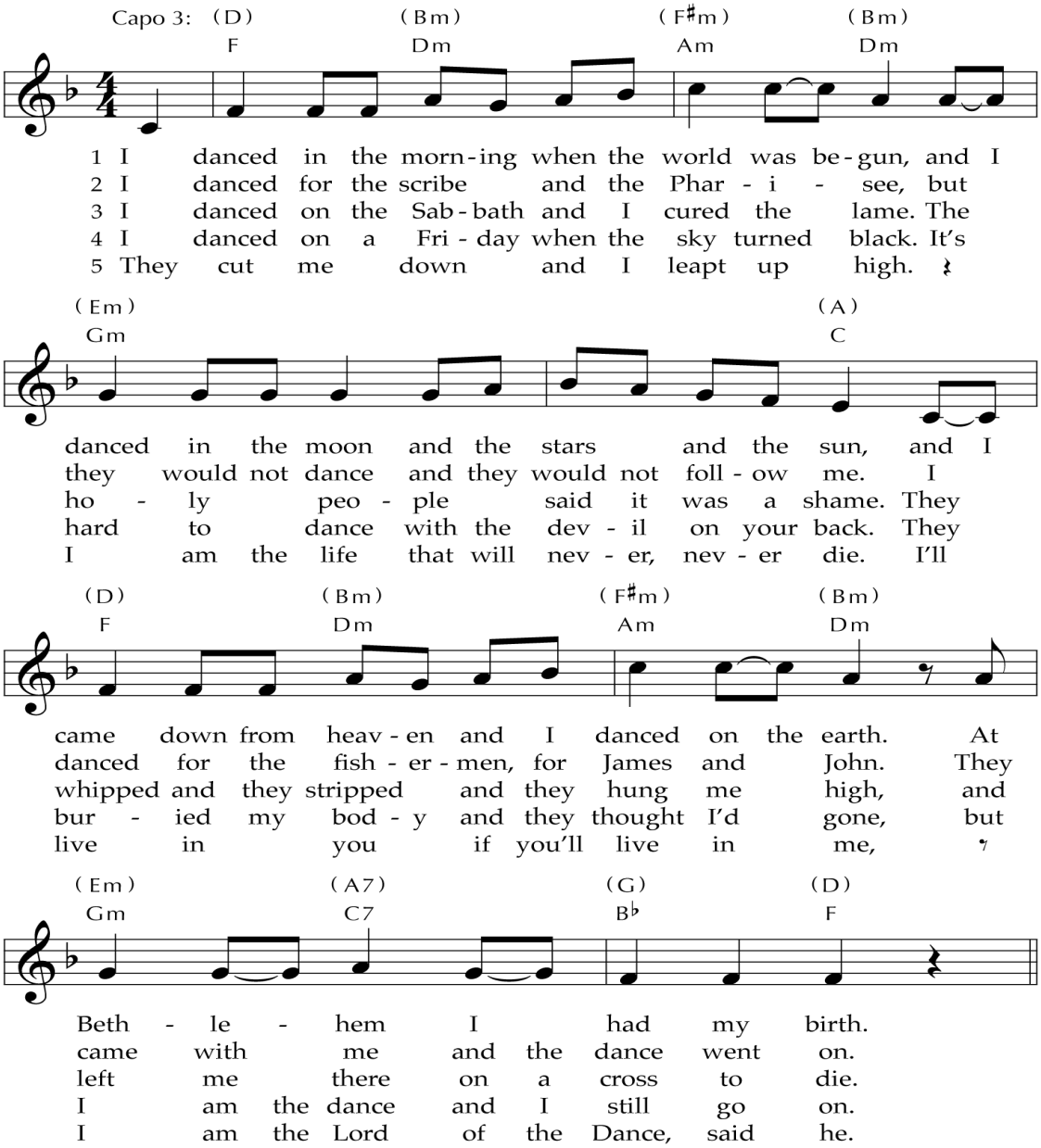
These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

TEXT: Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt.
MUSIC: Dutch melody; arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906

IN BABILONE
8.7.8.7.D

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

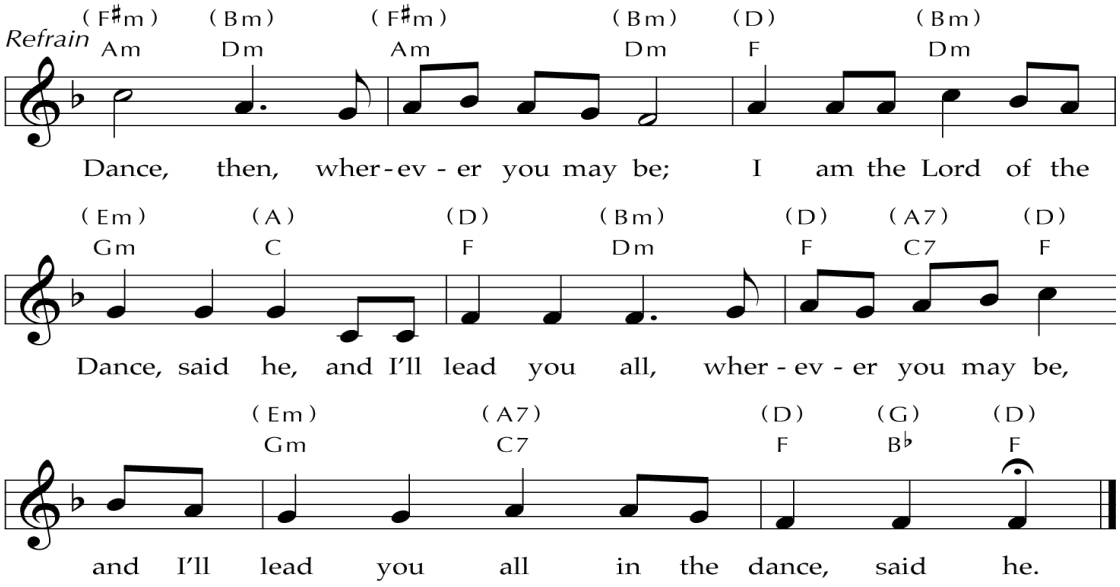
157 I Danced in the Morning



This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the life of Christ, though written for this Shaker tune, has many similarities with the pre-Reformation carol "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." Such narrative carols were common both at Christmas and as part of medieval mystery plays.

TEXT: Sydney Carter, 1963
MUSIC: American Shaker melody; adapt. Sydney Carter, 1963
Text and Music © 1963 Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

LORD OF THE DANCE
Irregular


Refrain
(F♯m) (Bm) (F♯m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)
Am Dm Am Dm F Dm
Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be; I am the Lord of the
(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)
Gm C F Dm F C7 F
Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher-ev-er you may be,
(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Gm C7 F B♭ F
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS

339 Lift Every Voice and Sing



Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

TEXT: James Weldon Johnson, 1900
MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1905

LIFT EVERY VOICE
Irregular


Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;
sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get
us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er
gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.