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

May 1, 2022
3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER
COMMUNION SUNDAY

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

Prelude — "Darwall's 148th" — LANI SMITH

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** — **Dhanashree**

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

For many reasons
from many places
carrying wrongs and rights
some unsure
some very certain
each with a story

we are called
to be loved and to love
to see and be seen
to be made and re-made,
perspective shifted
spirits moved
bodies in motion
to be transformed into the body of Christ,
ready to help God transform the world.

***Opening Prayer** — **Dhanashree**

Interrupt us this day, O God.
Interrupt our usual routines,
interrupt our self-centered ways,
interrupt our projection of our own values onto you,
interrupt our use of force to make others think like us.
Stop us in our tracks and re-orient us
toward your will, your way, your call, your community.
Open our eyes to see you at work in one another,
open our minds to receive your word of peace,
open our lives to be instruments of your invitation to another way.
We ask in the name of Christ,
who has disrupted the power of violence and death.

***Gathering Hymn No. 246** "Christ Is Alive!" TRURO

"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."

Call to Confession **Joshua Amimo**

We are often tempted to think more highly of ourselves than we ought. Even as we celebrate the work God has done through us, we need the reminder that it is God who calls, and strengthens, and makes all things possible. When we confess our faults and failings, God who is faithful and just makes room for new life. So together let us admit our brokenness and need of God's grace. Let us pray the prayer of confession…

Prayer of Confession **Joshua Amimo**

God, we want so badly to do what is right.
In our zeal we forget to listen for your voice,
forging ahead on our own way since we cannot imagine another.

We close our eyes to your image shining in the faces of the wrong people.
We close our ears to your word coming from those with whom we disagree.
We close our hearts against those who are different.
Instead we offer advice, or ultimatums, or patronizing help,
when what you desire is relationship, compassion, and justice.

Forgive us, O God.
Heal our hard-heartedness. Shift our thinking.
Open our eyes. Turn us to follow your way. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness **Joshua Amimo**

Do not fear, says God.
I have called you by name; you are mine.

I am doing a new thing within you. Now it springs forth!
By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Musical Response Meditation on "Rustington" C H H PARRY/ARR. LIVINIGTON

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

Scripture Reading Acts 9: 1-19a **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

9 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high
priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the
Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. **3** Now as he was going along and approaching
Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. **4** He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to
him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" **5** He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus,
whom you are persecuting. **6** But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." **7** The men
who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. **8** Saul got up from
the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him
into Damascus. **9** For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He
answered, "Here I am, Lord." **11** The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the
house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, **12** and he has seen in a
vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." **13** But
Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in
Jerusalem; **14** and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." **15** But the Lord
said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and
before the people of Israel; **16** I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus,
who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the
Holy Spirit." **18** And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he
got up and was baptized, **19** and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Sermon **The Right Kind of Zeal** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

***Communion Hymn No. 515** "I Come with Joy" DOVE OF PEACE

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

May the God of morning joy be with you!
May the God of gracious moments be with you!
Lift your hearts to God, children of love and hope!
We offer them to the One who fills us with life!
Let us sing glad praises to our God!
Our voices join all creation in glad songs!

Wondrous God,
you looked, and in the midst of chaos,
you heard the Spirit singing
creation into existence.
Dust could not praise you,
So you gathered it up to shape us in your image
that we might enjoy the gifts found
in the sky, on earth, in the depth of the sea,

in community with one another and with all creation.
Even when we became forgetful and severed relationships,
you sent the prophets to us who,
through their words and actions,
reminded of who you dreamed us to be.

When our stubbornness persisted,
You interrupted our lives, our ossified routines,
By coming to us, Word in the flesh—Jesus,
As a friend who would share in our joy and sorrow,
A teacher who would show us to love with abandon,
Especially the hungry for sustenance,
The ones yearning for freedom,
The ones longing for community.
You, God incarnate, unsettled all the death-dealing forces in the world,
Even at the cost of your life,
So that we might find the zeal to build that new heaven and new earth with you.

Pour your Holy Spirit into all gathered around this table,
and into these ordinary fruits of the earth – bread and grape juice.
As we eat of the bread,
may its brokenness give us strength
to stand up to persecutors of the most vulnerable;
to challenge us and all who love ourselves
more than the frightened and lonely.
May the cup of life fill us with the courage and zeal
to turn our ways and join with you
in building your new world of justice and joy.

We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ who taught us to pray together:

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 debts
as we forgive our debtors.
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.

Words of Institution
Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

*** Closing Hymn No. 451** "Open My Eyes, That I May See" OPEN MY EYES

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

Postlude Benediction Response on "Dennis" DOROTHY WELLS

The service continues with fellowship.



To continue to assure the safety of all, the offering plate is located 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 go on-line 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.

*Note: The prayers were adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson. The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving was inspired by Thom Shuman.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 1 - Communion Sunday
- Sunday Service - 10:00 - Mackey Hall
- Day 700 - 12:00 - 1pm - Wooster City Square

Tuesday, May 3
- 6:00 pm - Final session of Introduction to Centering Prayer - Mackey Hall

Sunday, May 8
- Sunday Service – 10:00 – Mackey Hall

Tuesday, May 10
- Worship Committee – 1:00 – The Lounge

Thursday, May 12
- Building Committee – 10:00 – The Lounge

Music:	Piano	Divine Gbagbo
	Organ	Ken Shafer
	Tambourine	Pong Thiemmedh
Tech. Assistant/Event Steward		Tony Mendiola
Sunday Assistant		
Flowers		Barbara Tartir
Refreshments		

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Office Administrator Judy Mowrer
Minister of Music and Worship Arts Dr. Divine Gbagbo
Worship Accompanist Ken Shafer
AV Assistant/Event Steward. Tony Mendiola
Custodian Kara Akers

Office Hours: 8:30 am–1:30 pm, Tuesday through Friday
www.facebook.com/wpcwooster / www.instagram.com/wpc_wooster/

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.

Christ Is Alive! 246

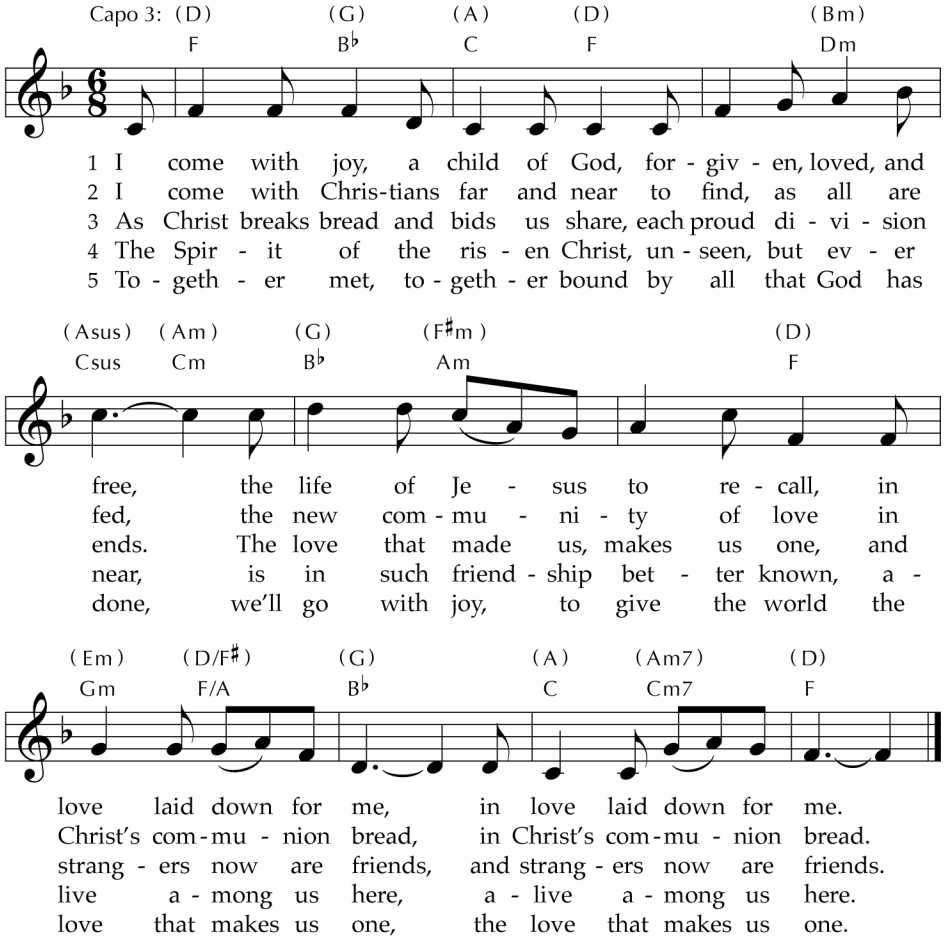


In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

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

TRURO
LM

I Come with Joy 515



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text affirms that Christian unity is not achievement but gift, one renewed each time we gather for the Lord's Supper. Each of us enters as an "I" and leaves as part of "we." The unadorned language of this text is well matched to the simple shape note tune that sets it here.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1993
MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1977
Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company
Music Arr. © 1977 Hope Publishing Company

DOVE OF PEACE
8.6.8.6.6

Open My Eyes, That I May See 451



The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

TEXT and MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895

OPEN MY EYES
8.8.9.8.8.8.8.4