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

May 15, 2022
5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Prelude "Improvisation on **Diademata**" EDWARD BROUGHTON

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

Come from our familiar and comfortable places
to look for God in new ways.

Permeating all of life,
always near and everywhere available,
the Holy asks us
to listen,
to pay attention,
and to practice the Wisdom we receive.

The Holy Mystery of Love,
the Sacred Calling of Courage,
The Lure of Truth and Beauty,
always moving us toward the restoration of life.
Praise be to God
who is revealed in our longings,
felt in connection,
and encountered in the flesh of creation.

***Opening Prayer** **Linda Barbu**

Holy God, you have always been trying to get our attention.
Through the cries of prophets, the whispers of saints,
and the groans of the earth,
you have been calling to us for ages.

As we grieve all that has been lost to destruction's hand,
we renew our commitment to listening for Spirit, your Wisdom around us.
With humility we pray, come and lead us in the way of life. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn No. 318** "In Christ There is No East or West" ST. PETER

Call to Confession **Linda Barbu**

God desires life in fullness for all God's creation. Let us confess the ways we fail to live in ways that are lifegiving to ourselves and to others, knowing that God is always near to us, and never gives up on us. God is ready to forgive and renew us so let us pray…

Prayer of Confession **Linda Barbu**

In the marketplace of ideas, there's always something new, O God.
We confess that we are torn between our attachment to tradition
and our belief that the latest fad will solve our problems,
and we trust the market to sort it out.

In public discourse, we are quick to judge,
quick to center our feelings and desires.
We are uncertain or anxious to share our faith story,
Fearing that we will offend.

Forgive us, O God,
for our misplaced trust,
for our misdirected speech,
for our self-centering ways.

Remind us that you are near,
and fill us with curiosity and courage
to seek your presence in unexpected places and unlikely people.

Help us discover our shared humanity with neighbors near and far
And witness to the power of your love embodied in Christ
In the face of all forces of inequity and injustice. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness **Linda Barbu**

Friends, hear this good news:
God is not far from each one of us.
In every breath, the Spirit makes us new, alive with Christ!
We are forgiven, loved, and free. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Musical Response **"**Adagio" from Piano Concerto in a minor EDVARD GRIEG/ARR. LANI SMITH

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

Scripture Reading Acts 17: 16-34 **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols.
17 So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and also in the marketplace every day
with those who happened to be there. 18 Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some
said, "What does this pretentious babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign
divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) 19 So they took
him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are
presenting? 20 It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." 21 Now all the Athenians
and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in
every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among
them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I
proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, God who is Lord of heaven and earth,
does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is God served by human hands, as though God needed
anything, since God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor God made all
peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and God allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places
where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for God and find God—
though indeed God is not far from each one of us. 28 For 'In God we live and move and have our being'; as even
some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are God's offspring.'

29 "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image
formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now
God commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because God has fixed a day on which God will have the
world judged in righteousness by a human whom God has appointed, and of this Gode has given assurance to
all by raising him from the dead."

32 When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed, but others said, "We will hear you again about
this." 33 At that point Paul left them. 34 But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius
the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Sermon **Let Your Life Speak** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

***Hymn No. 286** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" TRENTHAM

Sharing of Joys and Concerns **Linda Barbu**

Prayer of the People **Linda Barbu**

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.

*** Closing Hymn No. 645** "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" MIT FREUDEN ZART

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

Postlude "Chorale improvisation on **Lobe den** Herr'n" JOHANN WALTHER

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 Gathering Words and Opening Prayer was adapted from Enfleshed: Liturgy That Matters. The Prayer of Confession was adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 15
- Sunday Service – 10:00 am – Mackey Hall

Wednesday, May 18
- Open Arms Strategic Planning – 3:00 pm – The Lounge
- Benevolence Committee – 5:15 pm – The Lounge
- Finance Committee – 7:00 pm – The Lounge

Thursday, May 19
- Westminster Book Club – 7:00 pm – Zoom

Sunday, May 22
- Sunday Service – 10:00 – Mackey Hall
- Ice Cream Social & Plant Sale - 11 am - outside Mackey

Tuesday, May 24
- Congregational Care Committee – 1:00 – The Lounge
- Immigration Justice Committee – 3:00 – Zoom

Wednesday, May 25
- CAMO Volunteering – 10:00 am – CAMO, Orrville OH
- Session – 6:30 pm – The Lounge

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Music: Piano	Divine Gbagbo
Organ	Ken Shafer
Tech. Assistant/Event Steward	Tony Mendiola
Sunday Assistant	Lemoine Peart
Flowers	Lemoine Peart
Refreshments	
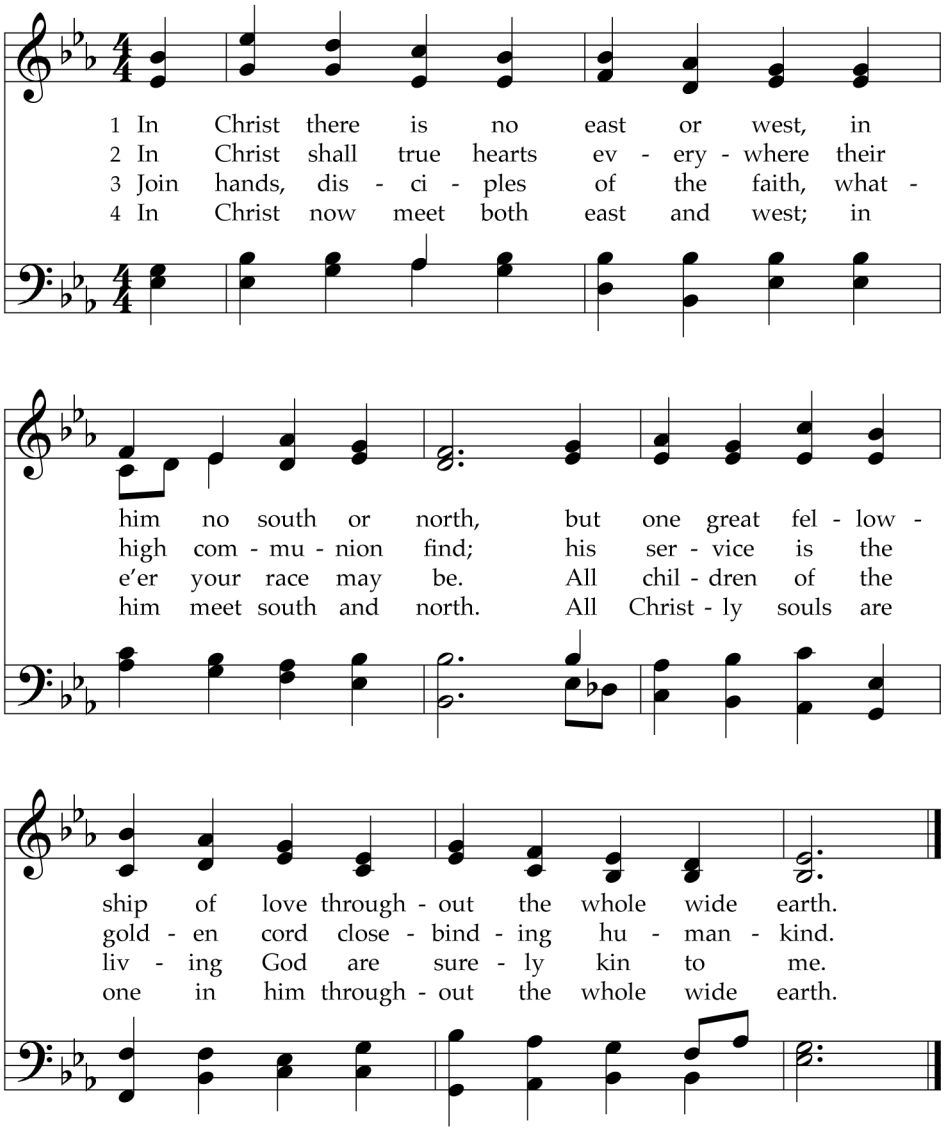
Westminster Presbyterian Church

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.

In Christ There Is No East or West 318

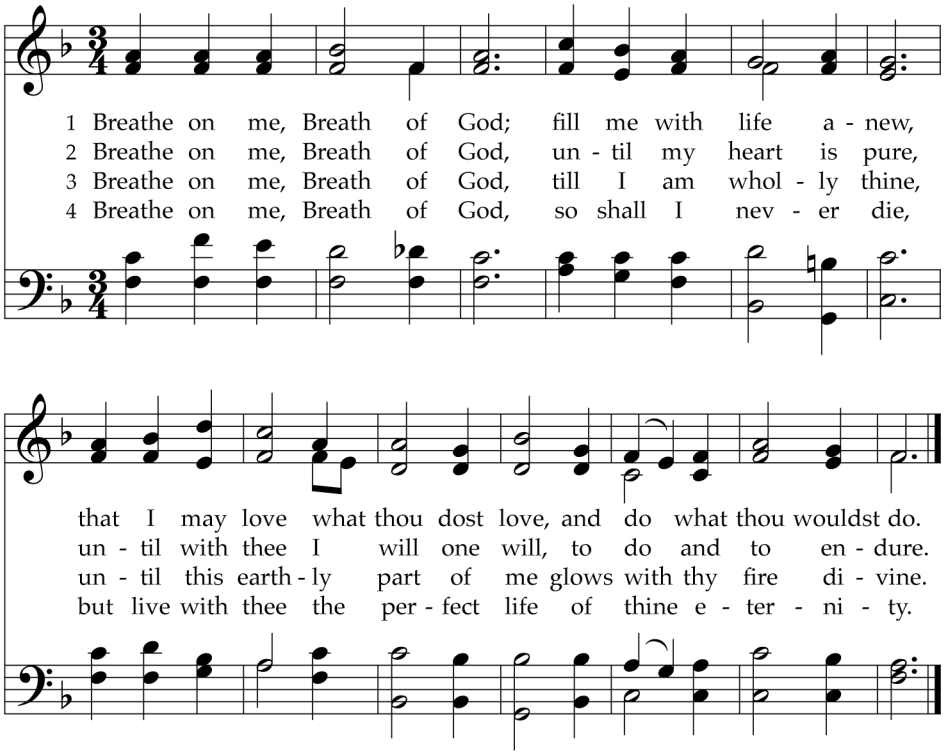


This text formed a very small part of an elaborate Christian missionary pageant in the early 20th century, yet it has endured while the grander aspects of that production have faded away. It is set to a simple 19th-century tune that does not get in the way of its message.

TEXT: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.
MUSIC: Alexander Robert Reinagle, 1836

ST. PETER
CM
(alternate tune: MC KEE, 317)

Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286
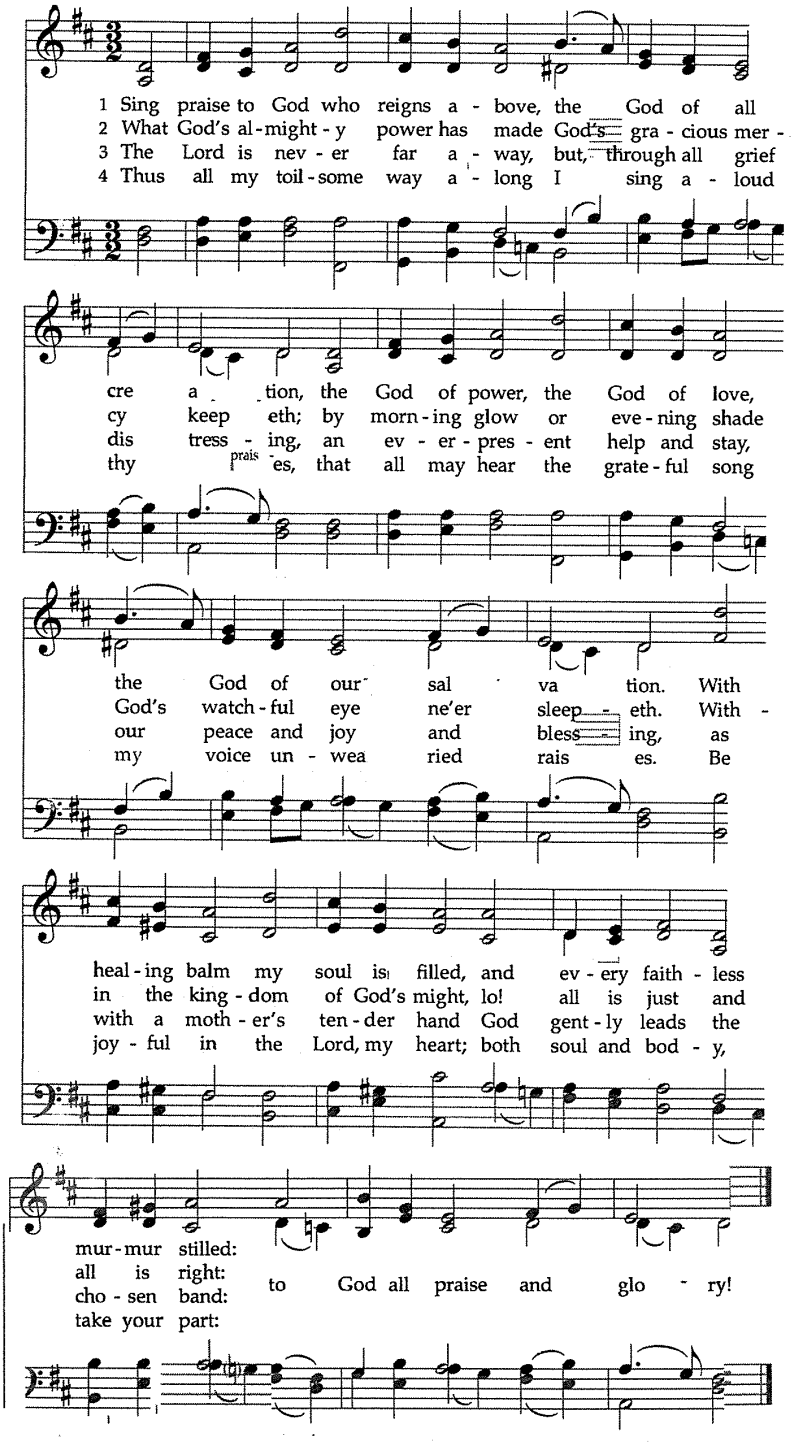


In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

TEXT: Edwin Hatch, 1878
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
SM

THANKSGIVING

645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above



The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

TEXT: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; tra· Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.
MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906, alt.

MIT FREUDEN ZART

8.7.8.7.8.8.7