Westminster
Presbyterian Church

January 9, 2022
BAPTISM OF THE LORD
COMMUNION SUNDAY

Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Dr. Barbara Johnson**

Prelude "Minuet" from String Quartet LUIGI BOCCHERINI

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

Come, all who thirst. Come to the font!
Dip your soul into the water of life.
Come, all who hunger. Come to the table!
Eat your fill of the bread of life.
Come, all who are weary. Come to worship!
Rest your spirits in the house of God.

Come, all who thirst.
Come, all who hunger.
Come, all who are weary.
Come and worship God!

***Opening Prayer** **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

Holy God of glory and majesty, you have called us by name. We pray in this moment for the courage and the strength to answer your call. As we open our ears to hear the story of your Son's baptism, open our hearts also, that we may experience again the renewing power of rebirth in the Holy Spirit. Inspire us in this time of worship, that we may claim our own identity as your beloved children.
Amen.

***Opening Hymn No. 475** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" NETTLETON

Call to Confession **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

Can you imagine a God who would rather forgive us than punish us, who calls us "my delight," rather than chiding us for being so foolish and wayward? This is why Jesus came, so we might know of God's tender mercy toward us. Let us confess our lives to the One who fills us with hope…

Prayer of Confession **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Let us again receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

Do not be afraid, for Christ has redeemed you.
Baptized in the deep waters of death, he has washed away your sins.
Risen from death, he invites you to be washed in the cleansing tide of God's mercy.

Our sins are forgiven;
Let us be at peace with God, with ourself, and with each other.
Thanks be to God, Amen.

Musical Response **"**Christmas Candle" DENNIS ELIOT

Prayer of Illumination **Rev. Dr. Barbara Johnson**

Scripture Reading **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22** **Rev. Dr. Barbara Johnson**

3:15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

3:16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

3:17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened,

3:22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon **We Count** **Rev. Dr. Barbara Johnson**

Hymn No. 408 "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving **Rev. Dr. Barbara Johnson**

May the God of glory be with you!
And also with you!
People of God, offer your hearts to God.
We give them to the One who comes to redeem us.
Sing songs of praise and joy, Children of God.
We lift our voices to the One who journeys with us through the waters of baptism, and who feeds us at the Table of hope.

With the water of baptism
reminding us of your love for us,
Voice of Heaven,
we lift our praises to you.
Before you breathed the Word
which tamed chaos,
you named us your children,
heirs of all the goodness
you desired for us.

So, with angel choirs in every region,
with shepherds who caroled a homeless family,
with those who came home singing from exile,
we lift our voices in joy and hope:

Holy, holy, holy, Awesome Voice of life and hope.
All creation resounds with your wondrous love.
Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes to be baptized with water and the Spirit.
Hosanna in the highest!

As we remember Christ's baptism,
as we recall his life and ministry,
as we follow him through death
into the resurrection of the new life,
we proclaim that mystery we call faith:

Holy Spirit,
fill us with the bread of forgiveness
and with the cup of hope.
Flow through us like baptismal waters,
so we might become
a river of reconciliation.

Grant us your peace,
so we might carry this gift to the world.

And when the river of time stops flowing,
when we gather as one around your Table,
we will join our voices as your children,
singing to God, Child, and Spirit,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

The Communion of the People/Sharing of the Elements

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. 725** "O Jesus, I Have Promised" NYLAND

***Benediction** **Rev. Dr. Barbara Johnson**

Postlude "Jubilate Deo" GEORGE BLAKE

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: The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving was adapted from Thom Shuman.

Music:	Drums, Piano	Divine Gbagbo
	Piano	Bob Iams
	Organ, Piano	Ken Shafer
	Tambourine	Pong Thiemmedh
Tech. Assistant/Event Steward		Tony Mendiola
Refreshments		Bill & Cheryl Weiss
Flowers		
Sunday Assistant		Bill & Cheryl Weiss

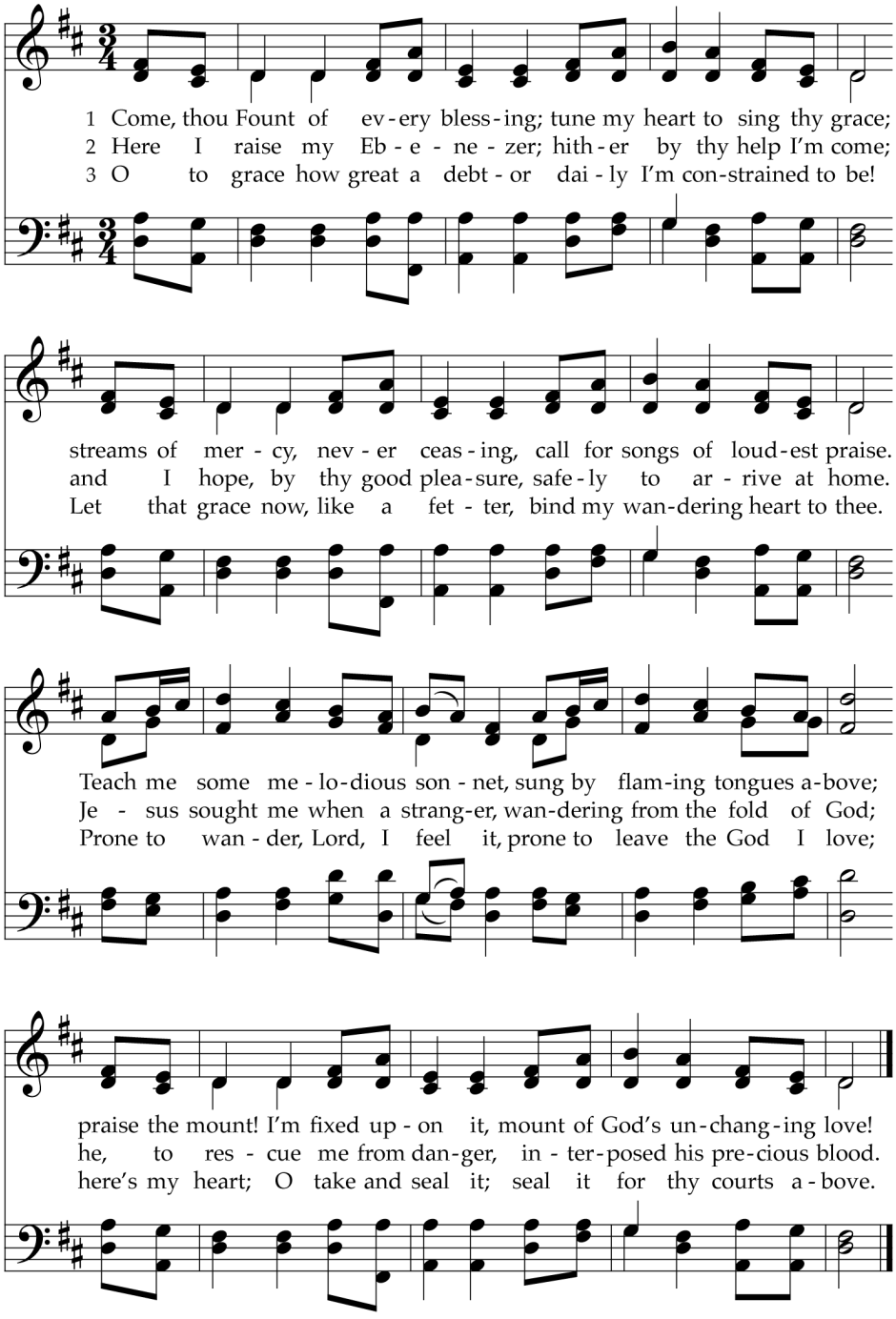
Westminster Presbyterian Church

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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.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

TEXT: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second,* 1813

NETTLETON
8.7.8.7.D

GATHERING

408 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit



This gospel hymn grew out of this African American author and composer's intense experience of prayer with her interracial choir in Los Angeles one Sunday morning before worship. She recalled that sense of "a sweet, sweet Spirit" when she sat down at her piano the next day.

TEXT and MUSIC: Doris Akers, 1962
Text and Music © 1962, ren. 1990 Manna Music, Inc. (admin. ClearBox Rights)

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT
9.11.9.11 with refrain

Refrain


Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here
with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings we
lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know that we have
been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

O Jesus, I Have Promised 725



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This hymn written by an Anglican clergyman for the confirmation of his children in Victorian times appears here in updated language that may help to make its challenging commitments more immediate. The tune is named for the province in Finland from which it comes.

TEXT: John Ernest Bode, 1866, alt.
MUSIC: Finnish folk melody; adapt. and harm. David Evans, 1927
Music Adapt. and Harm.© 1927 Oxford University Press

NYLAND
7.6.7.6.D
(alternate tune: ANGEL'S STORY, 724)