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

April 6, 2023
Maundy Thursday
Service of Holy Communion

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

Prelude — **"I Come with Joy"** — ***Brian Wren***

We invite you to bring your body into the worship of God. You may do so seated, by listening to your heartbeat or noticing the rise and fall of your abdomen with each breath.

Invitation to Worship

The first Maundy Thursday was filled with questions:
Surely, not I, Lord?
Couldn't you keep watch with me for one hour?
Why do we need more witnesses?
Didn't I see you with him in the garden?

Tonight, we seek not to answer these questions but to sit with them.
We sit with them in the hope that
in them we will find peace,
in them we will find grace,
in them we will find love,
in them we will find ourselves.

Come, let us worship God together.

Let us pray…
Jesus, we come tonight seeking.
We seek to remember your gentle care for us.
We seek to remember your love for us.
We seek to remember your sorrow and suffering for us.
As we seek you, may we find you and in finding you, may we find ourselves. Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 203 — **"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"**
Chereponi

Scripture Reading John 13: 1-17 (Common English Bible)

13 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4 got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." 11 For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

12 After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16 Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Remembrance of Baptism

With simple elements and simple acts, Jesus flipped the scripts of power to bring about new possibilities for God's love in the world. Before his betrayal and death, Jesus touched his followers and sealed their connection. Jesus taught us to wash one another's feet so that we might witness each other's goodness and be made clean. Through the waters of baptism, God claims us as God's own and marks the calling for our lives onto our bodies. Together, we will remember our baptisms.

I now invite you to wash/anoint the hands of the person seated next to you.

Let us pray:

God who poured forth water, God who formed each one of us,
we give you thanks for the sacrament of Baptism.

Allow the cool drip of water on our bodies to bring us closer to you
so that we might live as your people,
with justice, kindness, and humility.

As we remember your promises to us,
renew in us a heart of compassion for others
and help us recognize your presence in all whom we meet. Amen.

Hymn No. 525 "Let us Break Bread Together" *Let Us Break Bread*

Scripture Reading Matthew 26: 18-30 (Common English Bible)

18 He replied, "Go into the city, to a certain man, and say, 'The teacher says, "My time is near. I'm going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house."'" 19 The disciples did just as Jesus instructed them. They prepared the Passover.
20 That evening he took his place at the table with the twelve disciples. 21 As they were eating he said, "I assure you that one of you will betray me."
22 Deeply saddened, each one said to him, "I'm not the one, am I, Lord?"
23 He replied, "The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl. 24 The Human One goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Human One! It would have been better for him if he had never been born."
25 Now Judas, who would betray him, replied, "It's not me, is it, Rabbi?"
Jesus answered, "You said it."

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take and eat. This is my body." 27 He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from this, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. 29 I tell you, I won't drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father's kingdom." 30 Then, after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

Communion

I invite you to serve each other at your tables remembering that
in communion God reveals the wholeness of who we are together and with God.
Let us taste and see that God is good!

Prayer after Communion

Holy Mystery,
As you nourish us through this holy meal, leave us hungry for your Kin-dom.
Leave us thirsty for the justice that you pour out on the world.
Let us see you in the faces of strangers and friends.
Through Holy Communion, teach us how to be for others as you are for us:
sustaining help, loving accompaniment, eternal hope.

We give thanks for your transforming love. Remind us that love is a *doing*.
We ask for your help to turn this nourishment into love for all we meet. Amen.

Hymn No. 525 "Let us Break Bread Together" (verse 3)

Scripture Reading Luke 22: 39-53 (Common English Bible)

39 Jesus left and made his way to the Mount of Olives, as was his custom, and the disciples followed
him. 40 When he arrived, he said to them, "Pray that you won't give in to temptation." 41 He withdrew
from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed.42 He said, "Father, if it's your will, take this
cup of suffering away from me. However, not my will but your will must be done." 43 Then a heavenly
angel appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 He was in anguish and prayed even more earnestly.
His sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. 45 When he got up from praying, he went
to the disciples. He found them asleep, overcome by grief. 46 He said to them, "Why are you sleeping?
Get up and pray so that you won't give in to temptation."

47 While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd appeared, and the one called Judas, one of the Twelve, was
leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him.
48 Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Human One with a kiss?"
49 When those around him recognized what was about to happen, they said, "Lord, should we fight
with our swords?" 50 One of them struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear.
51 Jesus responded, "Stop! No more of this!" He touched the slave's ear and healed him.
52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders who had come
to get him, "Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, as though I were a thief?53 Day after
day I was with you in the temple, but you didn't arrest me. But this is your time, when darkness rules."

Invitation to Honesty, Growth, & Grace

Let us pray…

Jesus, there are times when you ask us to watch and pray
so that we won't fall into temptation,
so that those who are suffering will feel supported.

Yet we often fall asleep
sometimes literally,
sometimes because of busy-ness,
sometimes because we're afraid,
sometimes because we aren't seeking you.

Jesus, there are times when you ask us to watch and pray,
but we want to take up a sword,
we want to strike off someone's ear,
we want to start a rebellion.
Yet you came
to bring good news,
to seek and save.

Forgive us for not watching and praying.
Forgive us for not listening closely to you.
Forgive us for not following your lead.

Practicing Love

On your tables you find index cards and pen. I invite you to take one card and write down a practice of love toward yourself or a friend, or neighbor that to commit to in this Easter season (for example, make a phone call, write a card to a homebound person, show kindness to a stranger, etc.). This card you will take with you as a reminder.

On another card write down something that prevents you from showing love to another. Westminster has been collecting such cards with things that prevent us from living full lives in the Lenten Compost Bucket on the back table.

I invite you to leave this second card in the basket. On Easter Sunday, we'll plant these cards in our back garden as a symbolic act of giving these burdens over to God, who turns our fears and burdens into compost that nourishes the new creation in us.

Closing Music "What Wondrous Love is This" *Wondrous Love*
Juli Douglass-Gillespie, solo

*Prayers were adapted from A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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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

Tuesday, April 11

- Worship Committee – 1 pm – The Lounge

Thursday, April 13

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am– The Meeting Place
- Benevolence Committee – 5.15 pm The Lounge

Sunday, April 16

- 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.
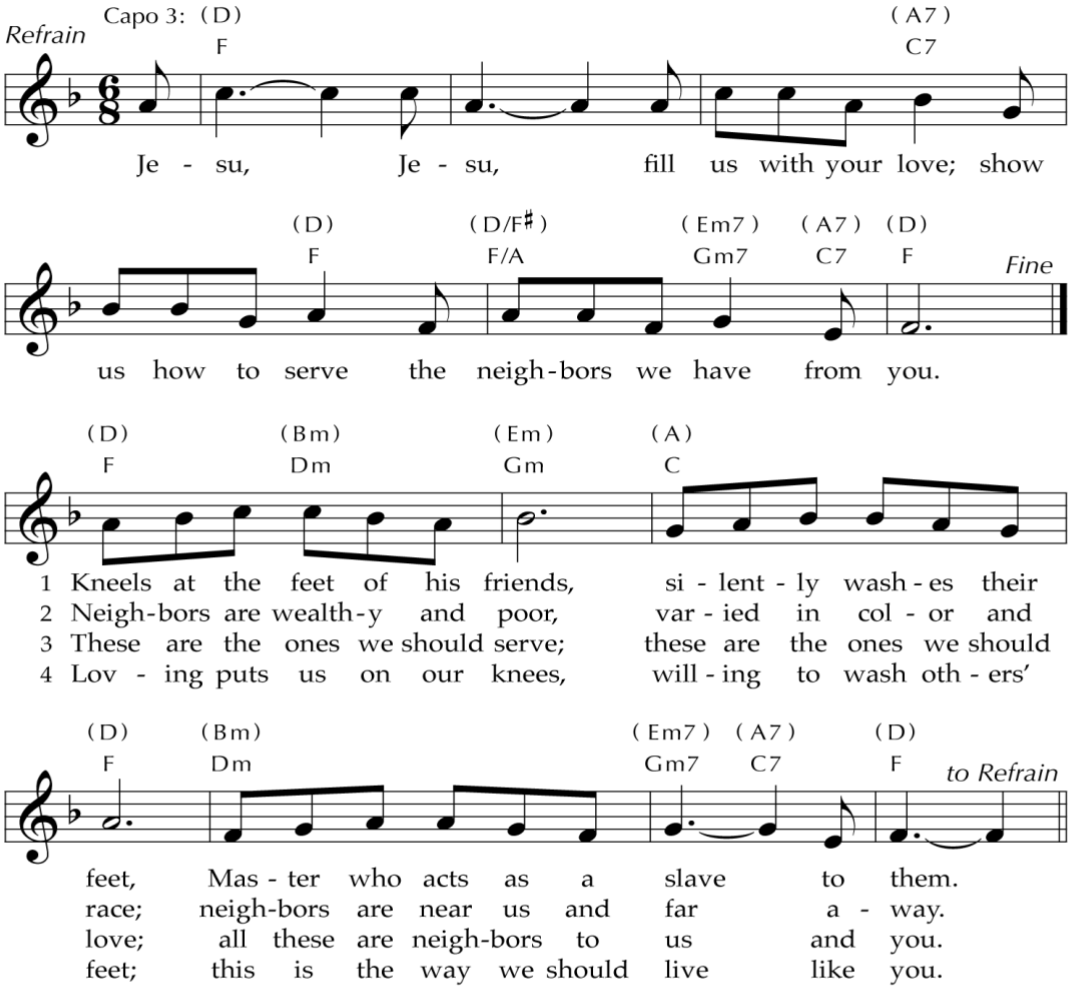
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Westminster Presbyterian Church strives to be a safe place for all people to worship regardless

of ethnicity, creed, age, cultural background, gender identity, or sexual orientation.



203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
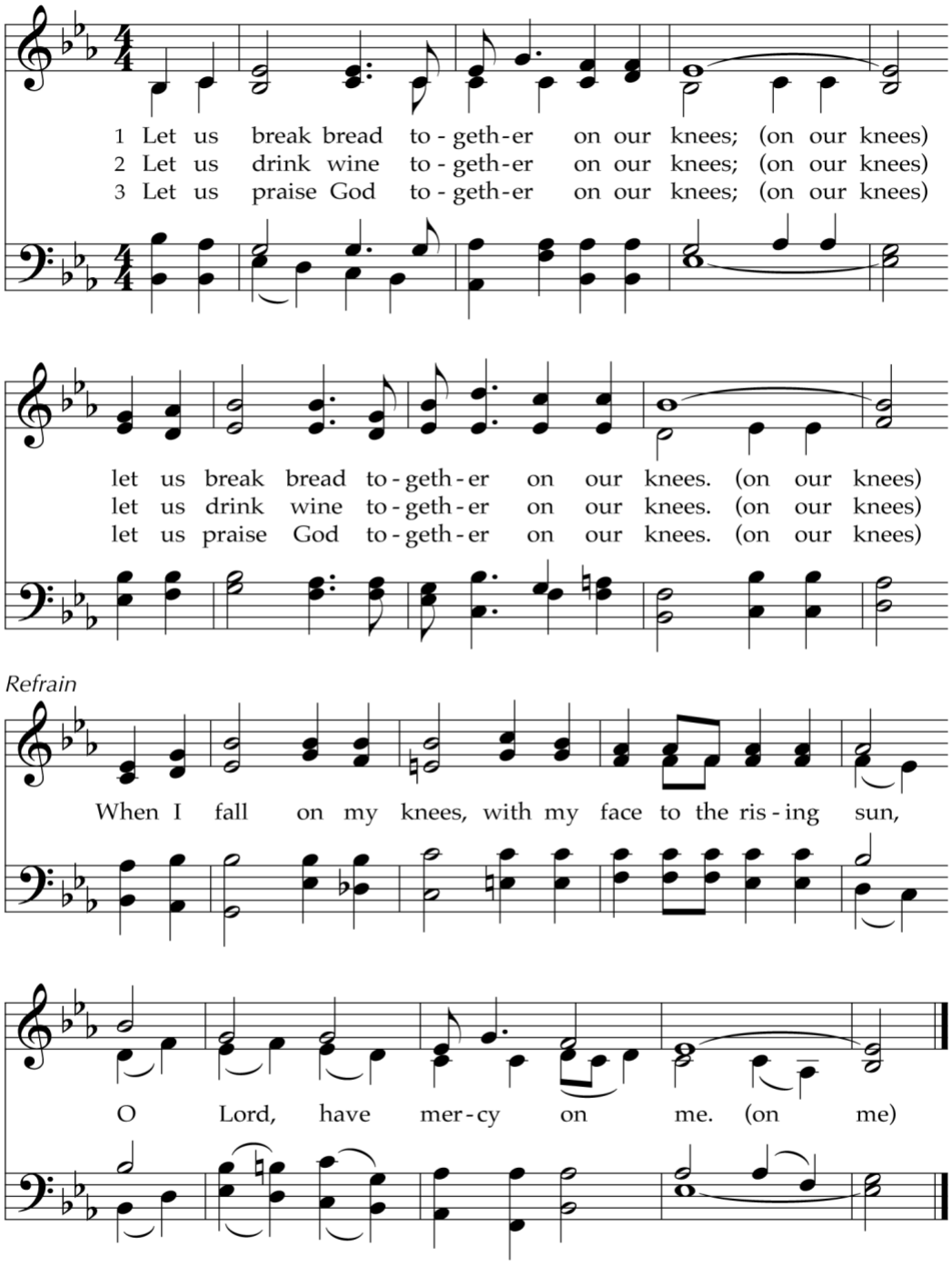


Considering that this text comes from a part of the world where Christianity is not the primary religion gives these simple but powerful words even more depth and meaning. The tune name recalls the district in the Northern Region of Ghana where this tune was collected.

TEXT: Tom Colvin, 1969, rev. 1997, alt.
MUSIC: Ghanaian folk melody; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1963; arr. Jane Marshall, 1982
Text and Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company
Music Arr. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

CHEREPONI
7.7.9 with refrain

Let Us Break Bread Together 525



This African American spiritual quite possibly reflects the circumstances of slaves attending early morning communion services in colonial Anglican churches, but its combination of hope ("rising sun") and supplication ("Lord, have mercy") speaks to many worshipers' experience.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1988
Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

LET US BREAK BREAD
10.10 with refrain