Westminster Presbyterian Church

September 26, 2021
18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Minute for Mission for the Peace and Global Witness Offering — **Linda Barbu**

Prelude "Pieces Pour Orgue Ou Harmonium" CESAR FRANCK

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** — **Ferenc Relle**

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

Surely the Lord is in this place —
whether we know it or not, God is present here.
God's promise is true,
and God's blessing is for the whole earth.
Sleeping and waking,
at home and abroad,
at work and at school and at play,
together and alone,
God is with us.

***Opening Prayer**

Your blessing is different than we imagined, O God —
bigger, broader, more inclusive than we thought,
and in places and people we didn't expect.
Where we see just a random place, you see a gateway between heaven and earth.
Where we see just an unremarkable person, you see your image-bearer.

In the everyday, your grace is at work, and we did not know it.
Open our eyes to recognize you this day,
and open our hearts and minds to be fully present to you,
trusting your promise.
Amen.

***Opening Hymn No. 53** "O God, Who Gives Us Life" NOEL

Call to Confession — **Candy Relle**

Every week during worship, we take time to confess our sin as individuals and as a community. We acknowledge our constant need for God's mercy and grace to live as God's children knowing that God's forgiveness and love are ready for those who turn to God. So let us come boldly and together confess our sin…

Prayer of Confession/Truth Telling

Gracious God, you refuse to be confined by
the rules and power structures we build for ourselves.

**We thank you for continually working outside the bounds of our systems,
even when we want others to color only inside the lines.
We admit that we are complicit in holding back those
who disrupt our systems in response to your inconvenient blessing.**

**You know that we have been known to complain about
people using the "wrong" methods,
the "wrong" words,
moving "too fast without bringing everyone along."**

**We confess that instead of following your lead,
we insist that everyone — including you — follow our way,
and we often take matters into our own hands to ensure our comfort.
Meanwhile you appear in the wilderness,
in unapproved ways,
promising more than we can imagine.**

Forgive us, Lord, and call us with your problematic blessing once again. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness **Candy Relle**

Friends,
God desires life abundant to all,
The rule follower and the one who colors outside the line.
This is the good news of the gospel:

**God's grace and mercy is a gift for each of us, here and now.
God claims us, loves, and blesses us so that we'd be a blessing for others.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Musical Response **"**Consolation" FRANZ LISZT

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

Scripture Reading Genesis 27: 1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17 **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

27When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called his elder son Esau and said to
him, "My son"; and he answered, "Here I am." **2**He said, "See, I am old; I do not know the day of my death.
3Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me. **4**Then
prepare for me savory food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die."

15Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them
on her younger son Jacob; **16**and she put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.
17Then she handed the savory food, and the bread that she had prepared, to her son Jacob.

[18]So he went in to his father, and said, "My father"; and he said, "Here I am; who are you, my son?" [19]Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, so that you may bless me." [20]But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the Lord your God granted me success." [21]Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." [22]So Jacob went up to his father Isaac, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." [23]He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.

[10]Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. [11]He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. [12]And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. [13]And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; [14]and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. [15]Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." [16]Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" [17]And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Sermon **Inconvenient Blessing** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

***Hymn No. 744** "Arise, Your Light Is Come!" FESTAL SONG

Prayer of the People **Ferenc & Candy Relle**

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. 697** "Take My Life" HENDON

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

Postlude "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" THOMAS BLISS

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: Prayers adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson.

Music:	Piano	Mary-Marie Deauclaire
	Drums	Divine Gbagbo
	Organ, Piano	Ken Shafer
	Guitar	Pong Thiemmedh
AV System Assistant		Greg Barbu
Refreshments		Dorothy Iams
Flowers		Barbara Tartir
Sanctuary Set Up		Eric Miller, Bill & Cheryl Weiss

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

53 O God, Who Gives Us Life



Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31–34).

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1990
MUSIC: English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1874
Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

NOEL
CMD

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!



Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1–2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894
Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG
SM
(this tune in a lower key, 815)

Take My Life 697



5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

This hymn of consecration radiates from the repeated word "take," resulting in a remarkably full survey of a person's attributes and possessions and giving weight to the "all" at the end. The composer of the tune was influential in the renewal of Reformed hymnody in French.

TEXT: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874
MUSIC: H. A. César Malan, 1827

HENDON
7.7.7.7

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.