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

March 12, 2023
Third Sunday in Lent
Service of Communion

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

Let us open our hearts and minds to the rhythm of the gathering music as it centers us in God's presence for worship.

Prelude — **"Land of Seeking"** — ***Spencer LaJoye***

Music/Lyrics

***Gathering Words** — **Eric Miller**

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

We gather together—
the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers, in hopes of seeing God.
We gather together—
the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely, in hopes of finding peace.
We gather together—
those who are thirsty and those with water to spare, in hopes of finding justice.
So come to the well,
come to the table.
Come, let us worship God. **Amen.**

***Opening Prayer** — **Sherry Hatter-Miller**

Let us pray…

Wellspring of all life,
We come to you today thirsty—
thirsty for hope, thirsty for good news, thirsty for a glimpse of you.

So today we pray,
move in our midst like a current.
Give us the courage to wade into your story, into our story unfolding here and now
with open eyes and open hearts.
Give us the courage to drink this moment in. We are listening.
We are grateful.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 476 "Crashing Waters at Creation" *Crashing Waters*

Call to Confession Sherry Hatter-Miller

In today's service we will hear the story of the Samaritan woman.
It's a well-known story of a woman who, in the heat of the day,
meets Jesus at a well and he asks her for a drink.
Every time I read this story, I cannot help but ask myself—
when was the last time I drew water for someone?
When was the last time I drew water for myself?

So with this same open curiosity, we come to the prayer of confession,
trusting that even if we forget our bucket, God will still meet us at the well.
Friends, with that grace in mind, let us pray:

Prayer of Confession Sherry Hatter-Miller

Holy God, we have been on every side of this story.
We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion,
and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well.

So today we wonder: how often have we missed the opportunity
to share water with our neighbors?

How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power to bring change?
How often have we simply decided that justice and compassion were not worth the work?

Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you who sat at that well
in Samaria in the heat of the day.

It was you. It is still you. With hope we pray, amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 698 **"Take, O Take Me as I Am"** ***Take Me as I Am (Iona)***
(sung multiple times)

Assurance of Forgiveness **Sherry Hatter-Miller**

Family of faith, as hard as it is to imagine:
we could lose the bucket, we could hoard the water for ourselves,
we could pretend we do not see all who are thirsty, and we would still belong to God.
This is the good news of the gospel:

God's grace is deeper than any well.
We are seen, loved, and forgiven.
May this realization change and inspire us. Amen.

Musical Offering **"Wayfaring Stranger"** ***Anonymous***
David Schmidt, guitar/vocal

We offer our gifts of money, talents, time, and energy—the gifts of our lives in gratitude for God's relentless love and grace for all. These gifts represent our commitment to heed God's call and join God in God's mission
of healing and transforming our world.

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

Scripture Reading **John 4:5-30, 39-42**
CEB translation

Narrator: 5 He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his
son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It
was about noon.7 A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water.

Jesus: "Give me some water to drink."

Narrator: 8 His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

Samaritan Woman: 9 "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan
woman?"

Narrator: She said this because Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.

Jesus: 10 "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water."

Samaritan Woman: 11 "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? 12 You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

Jesus: 13 "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life."

Samaritan Woman: 15 "Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!"

Jesus: 16 "Go, get your husband, and come back here."

Samaritan Woman: 17"I don't have a husband."

Jesus: "You are right to say, 'I don't have a husband.'" 18 "You've had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn't your husband. You've spoken the truth."

Samaritan Woman: 19 "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem."

Jesus: 21 "Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You and your people worship what you don't know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. God looks for those who worship God this way. 24 God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth."

Samaritan Woman: 25 "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us."

26 **Jesus:** "I Am—the one who speaks with you."

Narrator: 27 Just then, Jesus' disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" 28 The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people…

Samaritan Woman: 29 "Come and see a man who has told me everything I've done! Could this man be the Christ?"

Narrator: 30 They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus. 39 Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's word when she testified, "He told me everything I've ever done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed

there two days. 41 Many more believed because of his word, 42 and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world."

Sermon **Seeking: Will You Give Me a Drink?** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Communion Hymn **"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"** ***B. Wren; C. Young***

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

The God of wilderness and wells be with you!
And also with you!
Lift your hearts to the One who comes bringing life.
We offer them to our God of hope.

God of the lost and the found,
it is right for us to give our thanks and praise;
for day after day we look for you,
and day after day we find you:
in the laugher of children,
in the sun rising over the horizon,
in the flowers of spring.
Our seeking does not go unanswered,
and for that we are grateful.

So first and foremost, we come to you in prayer to say thank you,
for when we're seeking beauty,
you give us mountains and freckles, green eyes and brown eyes.
When we we're looking for reason to hope,
you give us rainbows after the storm, and candles flickering in the window.
When we're seeking peace,
you give us three part harmony and the sound of the rain.
And when we're seeking justice,
your life reminds us that *everyone* is welcome at your Table, and none shall be turned away.

For all these reminders we are deeply grateful.
And yet, gracious God, our seeking does not stop.
For even though your fingerprints are all over this world,
we are not yet at your promised day.

So in addition to our gratitude, we also pray today for conviction.
Do not let us get comfortable with half-hearted seeking.

Do not let us grow numb to the suffering of this world.
Make us relentless in our pursuit of justice—
relentless in our consoling of the grieving,
in our welcoming of the stranger,
and in the feeding of the hungry.
Like a dog with a scent,
may we walk toward your kin-dom,
never giving up, never wandering off the path.

And as we see and as we seek, pour out your Spirit on this ordinary bread and cup.
May this meal be the nourishment we need.
Quench our thirst, empower us to continue seeking you in the world.
Fill us to the brim, until your love overflows through us into all creation and make it whole.
Until your promised day, we will pray.
Until your promised day, we will seek…

Through the power of your Spirit and in the name of Jesus the Christ,
who taught us to pray, saying:

Our God in heaven, holy is your name.
Your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution
Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

***Closing Hymn No. 762** **"When the Poor Ones"** *El Camino*

***Benediction** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Postlude **"A Pair of Pithy Postludes"** *Bach & Martin*
I. Postlude in D Minor by J. S. Bach

II. Festive Flight by G. M. Martin

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*The prayers were adapted from the Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Organ – Tom Shaw; David Schmidt, guitar/vocal
*Sunday Service Assistant/Treats – Sherry Hatter-Miller

The service continues with fellowship.



To continue to assure the safety of all, the offering plate is located on a table in the back of the sanctuary. If you are moved to support our ministry, we invite you to place your gifts in the plate.



You may also give online 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.

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 12
- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place

Monday, March 13
- Troop 61 – 6 pm – Mackey Hall

Tuesday, March 14
- Worship Committee – 1 pm – The Lounge
- TACO TUESDAY – 6 pm – Dutch Kitchen in Dalton

Thursday, March 16
- Dance & Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place
- Lenten Study – 5.30 pm – The Lounge
- League of Women Voters Event - Becoming American – 7 pm - First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 19

- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- "Open Arms Hispanic Ministries: Welcoming and Accompanying our local Latinx Immigrants" and lunch following worship
- 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

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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.


seeking:
Will you give
me a drink?

BAPTISM

476 Crashing Waters at Creation



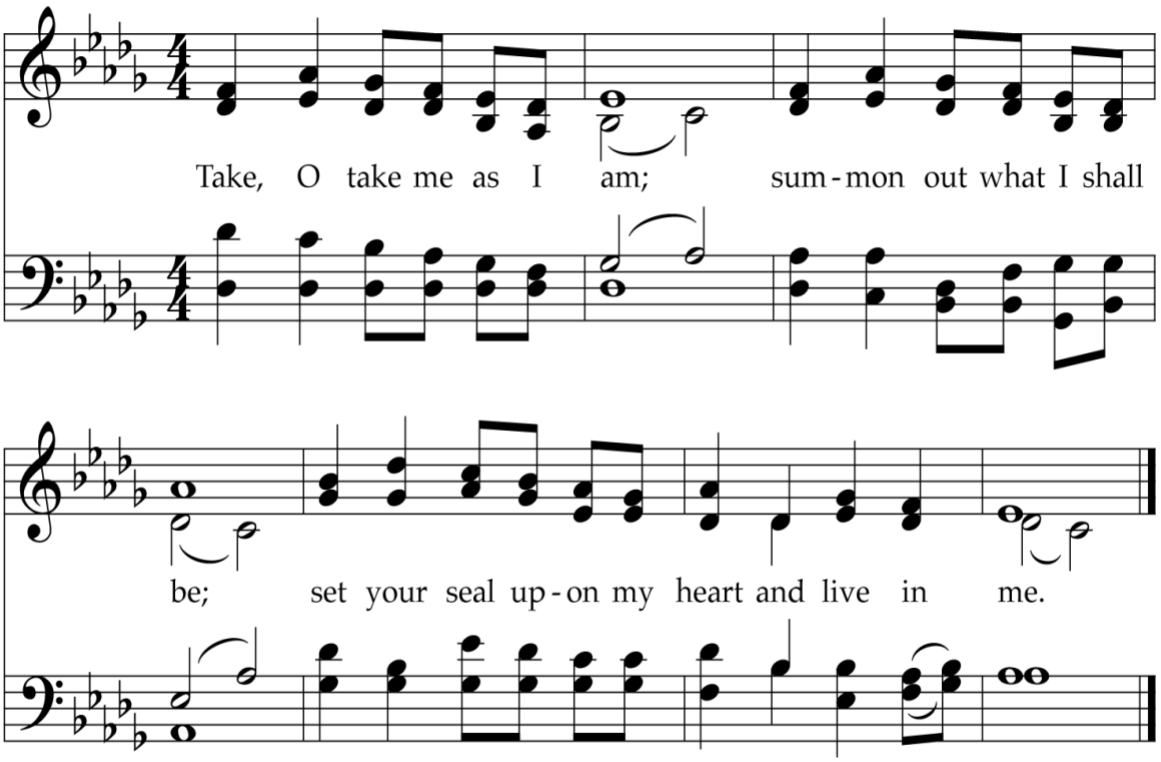
Like the Thanksgiving Over the Water in the rite of Baptism, this text by a United Church of Canada minister recalls significant events in salvation history involving water. The final stanza is a prayer to Christ, the Living Water (John 4:10, 14), to quench our spiritual thirst.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1987
MUSIC: William A. Cross, 1992
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music © 1994 William A. Cross

CRASHING WATERS
8.7.8.7

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am



The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
Text and Music © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM
7.7.7.4

This Is a Day of New Beginnings 383



Alternate text for Holy Communion

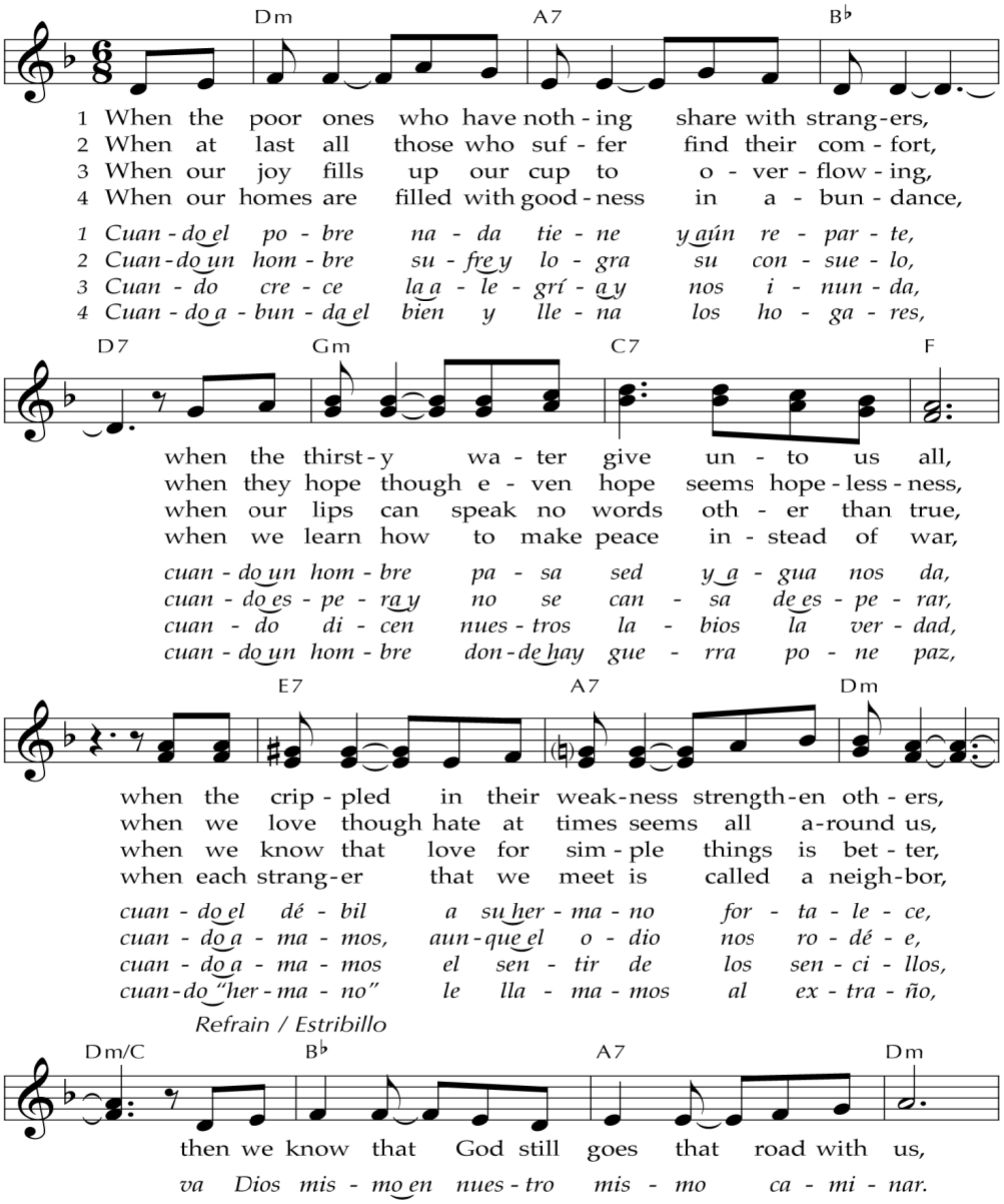
WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978; alt. 1987 (Rev. 21:5)
MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984

BEGINNINGS
98.98

Words © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

762 When the Poor Ones

Cuando el pobre



Drawing on the parable revealing Christ's presence in "the least of these" (Matthew 25:31–46), the stanzas here give examples (the "when") while the refrain affirms the promise (the "then"). The journey imagery of the refrain may be based on the Emmaus story (Luke 24:13–35).

TEXT: José Antonio Olivar and Miguel Manzano, 1970; trans. George Lockwood, 1980, alt.
MUSIC: José Antonio Olivar and Miguel Manzano, 1970; arr. Alvin Schutmaat, 1971
Text and Music © 1971 José Antonio Olivar and Miguel Manzano (Published by OCP)

EL CAMINO
12.11.12 with refrain

