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

March 5, 2023
Second Sunday in Lent
Service of Communion

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

Minute for Mission — Open Arms Hispanic Ministries — Barbara Tartir

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** — Candy Relle

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

What is it like to begin again?
It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.
It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.
It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.
It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

May we find God in our seeking.
May we learn as we go.
May we be brave enough to begin again.
Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

***Opening Prayer** — Candy Relle

Let us pray…

Holy God,
We come to you today with our biggest questions:

Who are we called to be?
What do you need from us?
Where are you in our midst?
How can we follow you more clearly?
As we pray, sing and grapple with your word today,
we ask that you weave answers into our worship.
Speak to us that we might find what we are seeking in you.
With gratitude and open hearts we pray, amen.

Opening Hymn No. 49 **"The God of Abraham Praise"** ***Leoni***

Call to Confession **Ferenc Relle**

One of the things I love about the prayer of confession is it offers us a new beginning.
In the prayer of confession, we lay our cards on the table.
We speak honestly with God about who we are and who we long to be.
And in response, God wraps us in grace and lets us begin again.

So together, with God's grace, let us wipe the slate clean.
Together, with God's grace, let us pray the responsive prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession **Ferenc Relle**

God of new life, you call us into unknown places,
and we bury our heads in the sand.
You promise all the stars in the sky,
and we doubt it can be true.
You speak of new life in the Spirit,
and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance.
Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you.
Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes.
Give us the courage to begin again with you. Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 544 **"Bless the Lord"** ***Taizé***
(sung multiple times)

Assurance of Forgiveness **Ferenc Relle**

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:

There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than we can imagine.
No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we have been forgiven.
Today, the slate is wiped clean. Today, we are made new.

Join me in saying:
We belong to God. We are held in God's love.
We are made new. Amen.

Musical Offering **"Kyrie"** *Jay Althause*

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.

Musical Poem **"How Do We Begin Again"** *Poem by: Rev. Sarah A. Speed*
Video by: Rev. Erika Gara

Prayer of Illumination **Candy Relle**

First Scripture Reading **Genesis 12:1-4A** **Candy Relle**
(CEB translation)

12 God said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I
will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected,
and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, those who curse you I will curse; all the
families of the earth will be blessed because of you." 4 Abram left just as God told him.

Second Scripture Reading **John 3:1-17** **Joel Chupp**
(CEB translation)

3 There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said to
him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these
miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless
someone is born anew, it's not possible to see God's kin-dom." 4 Nicodemus asked, "How is it
possible for an adult to be born? It's impossible to enter the mother's womb for a second time and be
born, isn't it?" 5 Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not
possible to enter God's kin-dom. 6 Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the
Spirit is spirit. 7 Don't be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' 8 God's Spirit blows

wherever she wishes. You hear her sound, but you don't know where she comes from or where she is going. It's the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus said, "How are these things possible?" 10 "Jesus answered, "You are a teacher of Israel
and you don't know these things? 11 I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about
what we have seen, but you don't receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and
you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has gone up to
heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the
snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up15 so that everyone who believes in him
will have eternal life. 16 God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that everyone who
believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. 17 God didn't send God's Son into the world to
judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Reflection **Joel Chupp**

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

Sharing of Joys and Concerns **Candy and Ferenc Relle**
Prayer of the People
The Lord's Prayer

We ask these things 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 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. 286** **"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"** *Trentham*

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

Postlude **"Postlude on *Foundation*"** *Traditional/arr. Patricia Harris*

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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, Ken Shafer
*Sunday Service Assistant/Treats/Flowers – Linda Barbu

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 5

- Choir rehearsal – 9 am – The Meeting Place
- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place

Monday, March 6

- Troop 61 – 6 pm – Mackey Hall

Tuesday, March 7

- Congregational Care Committee – 10.30 am – The Lounge
- Worship Committee – 1 pm – The Lounge

Thursday, March 9

- Dance & Exercise – 8:30 am – The Meeting Place
- Building Committee – 10 am – The Lounge
- Lenten Study – 6 pm – The Lounge

Sunday, March 12

- 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.
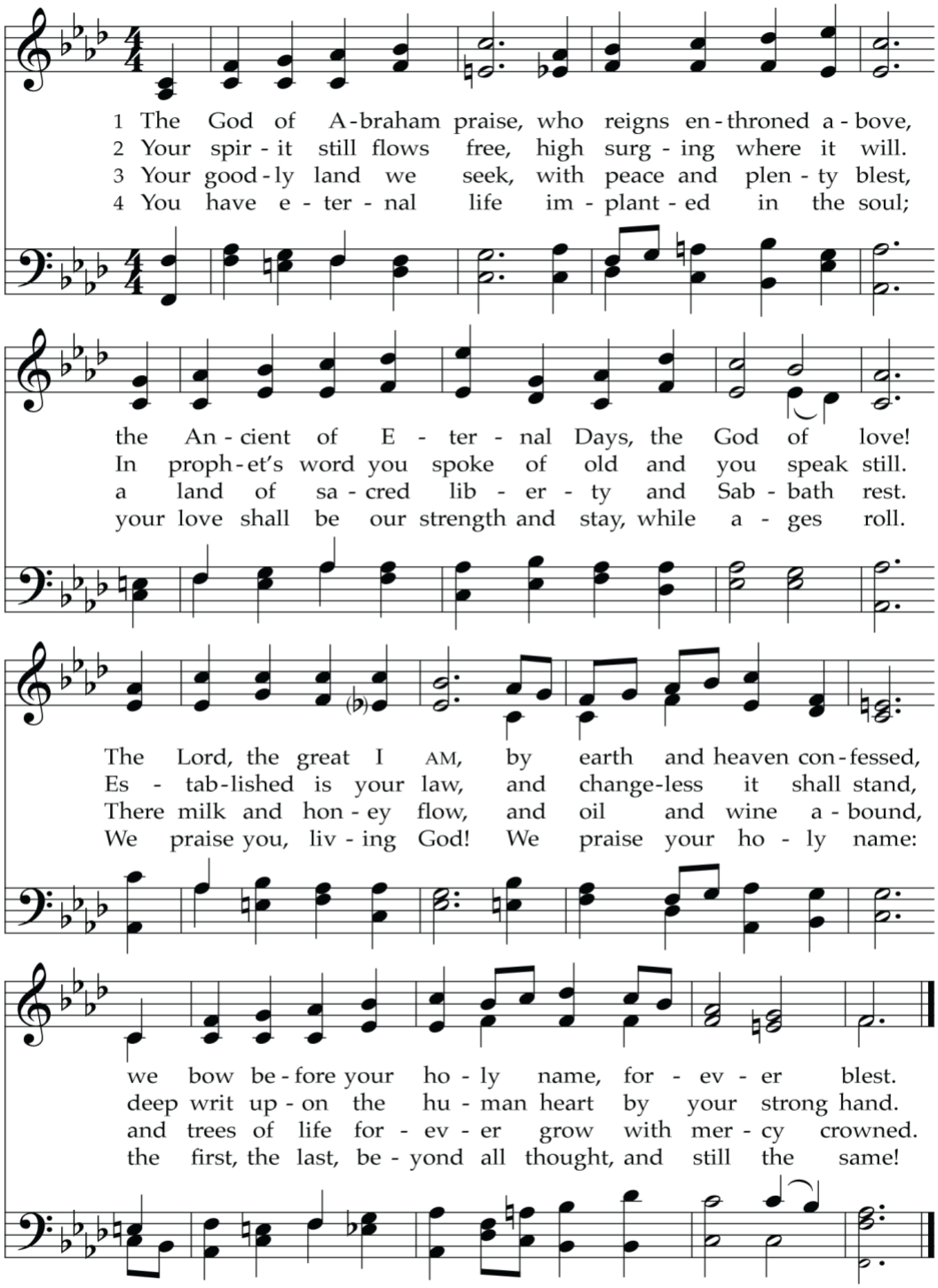
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Westminster Presbyterian Church strives to be a safe place for all people to worship regardless of ethnicity, creed, age, cultural background, gender identity, or sexual orientation.



GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

49 The God of Abraham Praise



Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

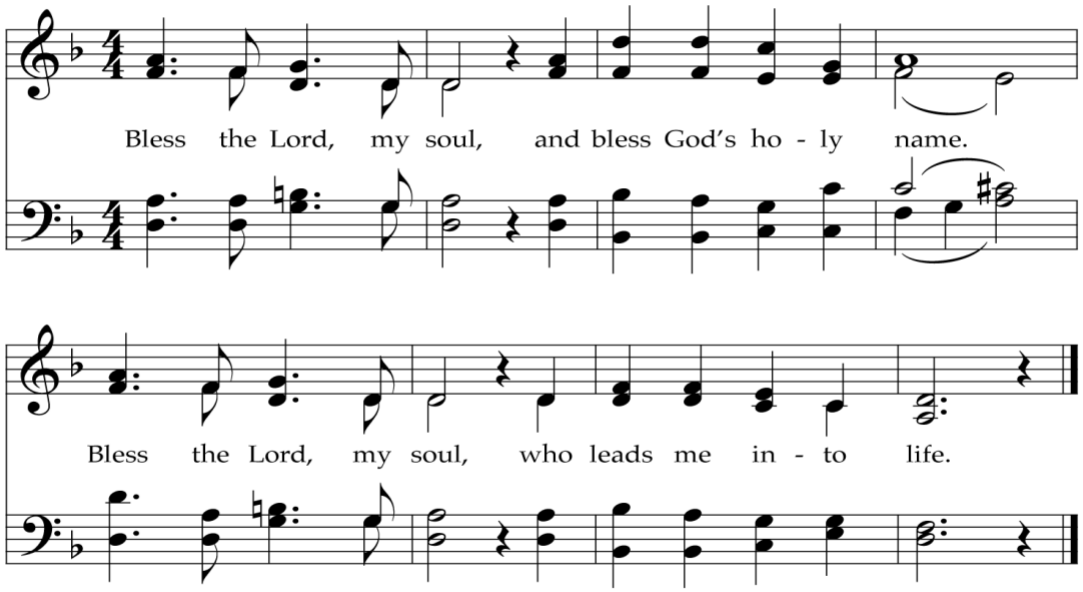
TEXT: Moses Maimonides, 12th cent.; vers. Daniel ben Judah Dayan, 1404; stanzas 1, 3, trans. Thomas Olivers, c.1770, alt.; stanzas 2, 4, trans. Max Landsberg, Newton M. Mann, and William C. Gannett, 1884, 1910, alt.

MUSIC: Jewish melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers, 1770

LEONI
6.6.8.4.D

SENDING

544 Bless the Lord
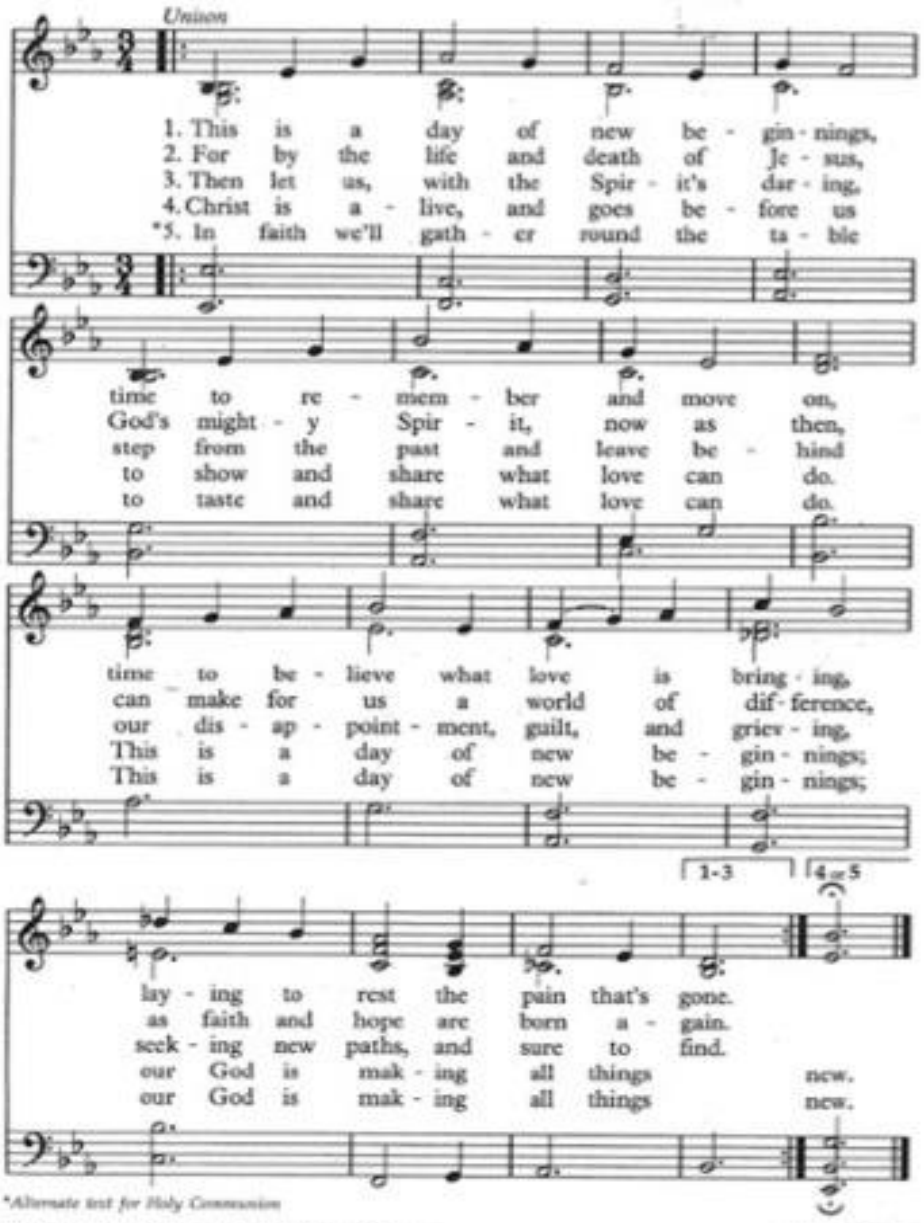


This refrain based on Psalm 103:1 is meant for repeated singing. To "bless God's holy name" (which could not be spoken by observant Jews) is a reminder to be grateful even for what we cannot comprehend, trusting that God's providence will show us "the path of life" (Psalm 16:11).

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
Text and Music © 1984, 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

BLESS THE LORD (Taizé)
Irregular

This Is a Day of New Beginnings 383



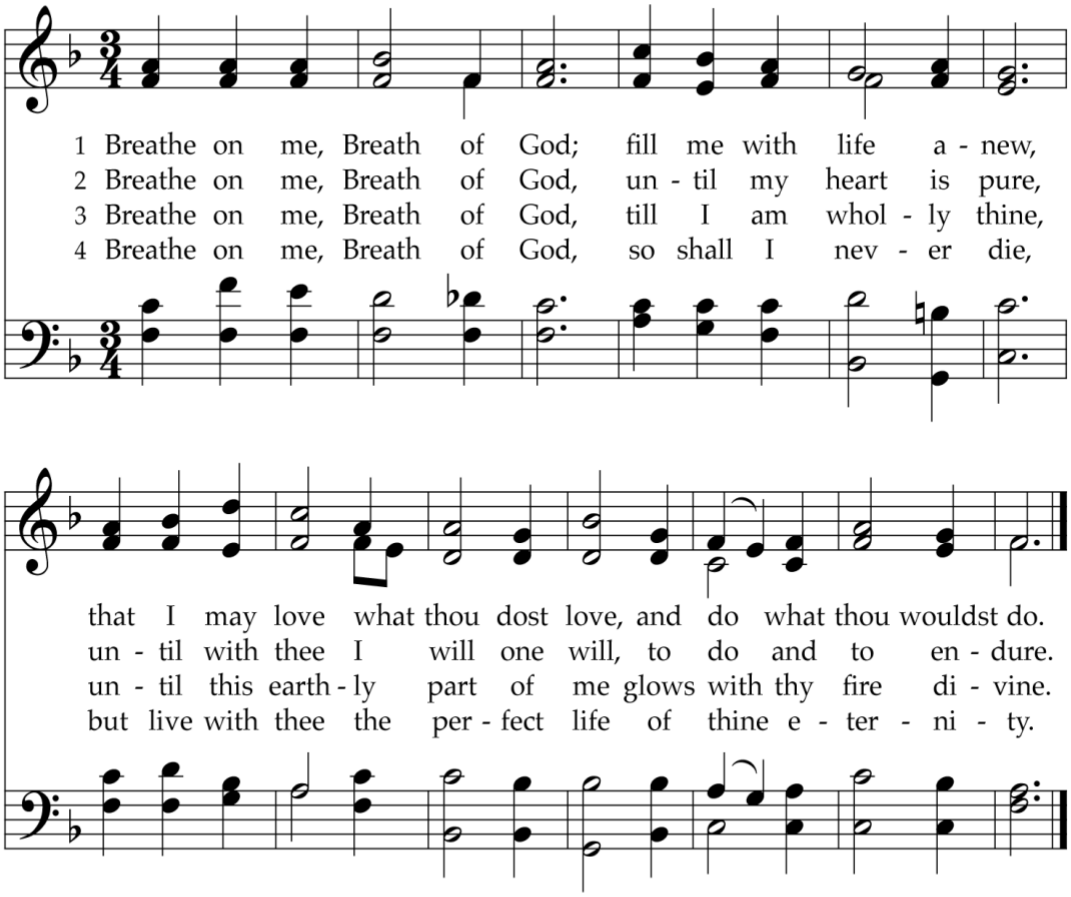
Alternate text for Holy Communion

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.

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