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

April 23 2023
Third Sunday of Easter
Earth Day Sunday

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 — **"And There Was Morning"** — ***G. M. Martin***

***Gathering Words** — **Cheryl Weiss**

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

In the name of God, who creates planets,
the name of Jesus Christ, born on planet Earth,
and the name of the Spirit who envelopes our planet.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

Christ, we come to into your presence, today,
to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with your presence.

***Opening Prayer** — **Cheryl Weiss**

Let us pray…
God of the universe, we celebrate the song of our planet!
Planet Earth, we celebrate your beauty and your grace,
your special place in our solar system.

We rejoice in your ocean currents as they dance and swirl with hope.

We join in praise with all your fauna and flora as they sing their songs to the Lord.

Planet Earth, enveloped in the breath of God,
Bless all your creatures this day with the life-giving breath of God.
Thank you, God, for the privilege of seeing Earth anew as a gift from you.
Amen

Opening Hymn No. 22 **"God of the Sparrow"** ***Roeder***

Call to Confession **Bill Weiss**

When we confess our lives, we are calling on God who promises, not only to hear us, but to heal us with forgiveness and hope. Join me, as we pray the responsive prayer of confession…

Prayer of Confession **Bill Weiss**

Faithful One, we have erred.
We have caused the extinction of species, cultures, and languages.
We have turned our backs to your Goodness and each other.

We continue to err,
ignoring those who hold wisdom about our Earth,
pushing them to fragile places and infertile lands,
sacrificing sustainability for comfort and the future for today.
We assume that everything will adapt,
that nature will right itself,
that we don't have to change.

In our darkness,
help us find courage
to grow in understanding of ourselves,
each other, and our blessed Earth.

In our mistakes,
help us find wisdom
to change our ways and make things right.

In our guilt and fear,
help us find freedom
to live simply, speak bravely, and act justly.

In the name of Christ Jesus we pray,
Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 471 "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"
Taizé

Assurance of Forgiveness Bill Weiss

In this place we find God's word, God's way,
God's love, God's forgiveness.
what more do we need to sustain us?

In every wilderness, on every road;
in every moment, in every life;
In every journey, in every heart,
we receive the daily bread we need:
God's hope, God's mercy. God's joy.
thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

Musical Offering "In the Garden" *C. Austin Miles*
Dave Schmidt, guitar

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 Joel Chupp

First Scripture Reading Psalm 104: 10-15 (NRSV) Joel Chupp

10 You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills,
11 giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst.
12 By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.
13 From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
14 You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and plants for people to cultivate, to bring forth food from the earth
15 and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine and bread to strengthen the human heart.

Second Scripture Reading **Matthew 6: 25-29 (NRSV)** **Joel Chupp**

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? 28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

Earth Day Meditation **Joel Chupp**

Hymn No. 713 **"Touch the Earth Lightly"** ***Tenderness***

Sharing of Joys and Concerns **Cheryl and Bill Weiss**

Prayer of the People **Cheryl and Bill Weiss**

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.

*Closing Hymn No. 36	"For the Fruit of All Creation"	*Ar Hyd Y Nos*
*Benediction		Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Postlude	"Crown Him with Many Crowns"	*arr. Anna Laura Page*

The service continues with fellowship.

*Gathering Words and Opening Prayer adapted from "Season of Creation: Liturgy for Planet Earth Sunday"
*Prayer of the People adapted from 2023 Earth Day Sunday; Presbyterian Mission, Sowing Seeds.
*Prayer of Confession: Adapted from Kairos Canada's Worship in Celebration of Earth Sunday (April 22, 2012)
*Call to Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness: Thom Shuman
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Dave Schmidt, guitar
*Sunday service assistant/treats: Cheryl and Bill Weiss



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.

GIVE NOW

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, April 23
- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place

Monday, April 24
- Troop 61 – 6 pm – Mackey Hall

Wednesday, April 26
- Immigration and Justice Committee – 3 pm – The Lounge

Thursday, April 27
- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am– The Meeting Place

Sunday, April 30
- 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
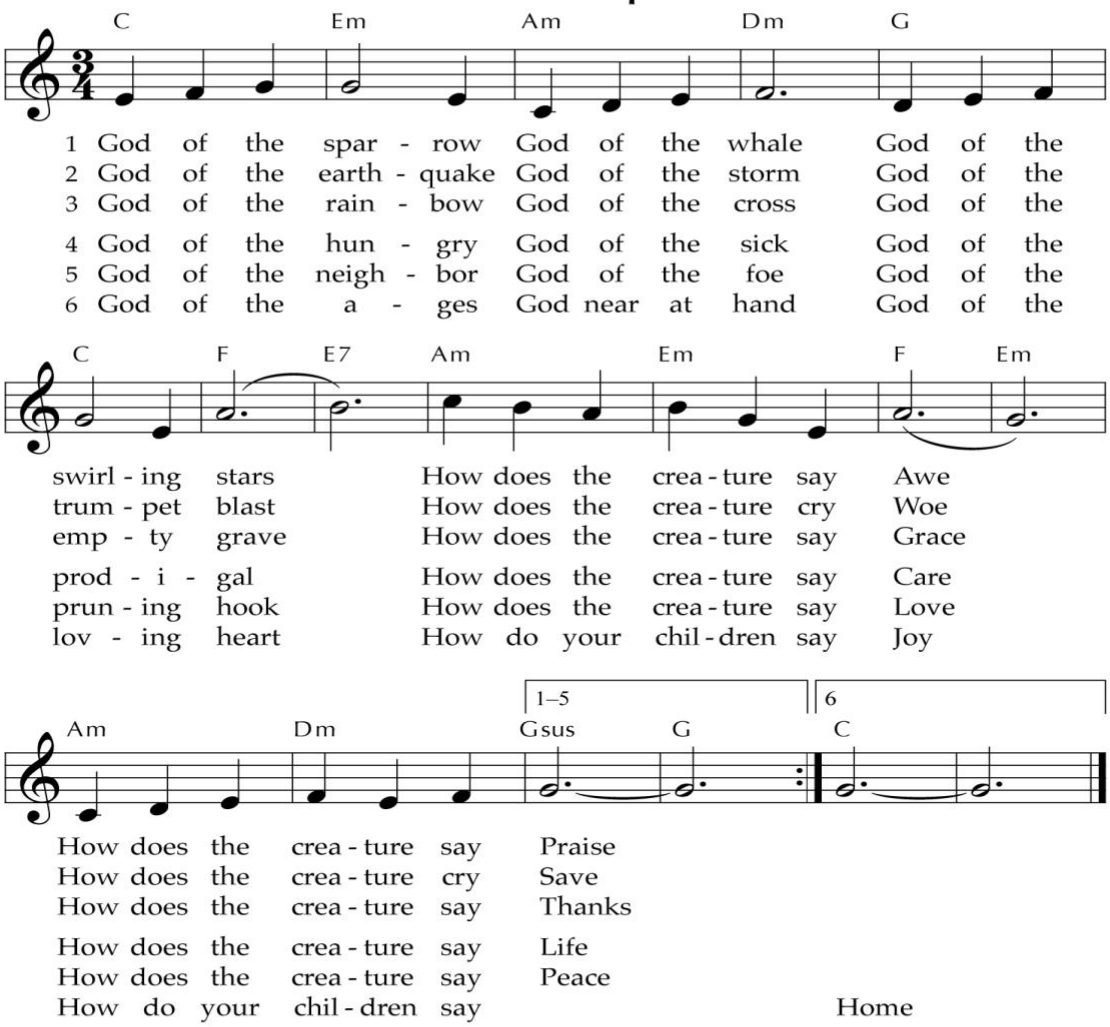
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

wpcwooster@gmail.com: 330.263.2398
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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.


EARTH DAY

22 God of the Sparrow



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.
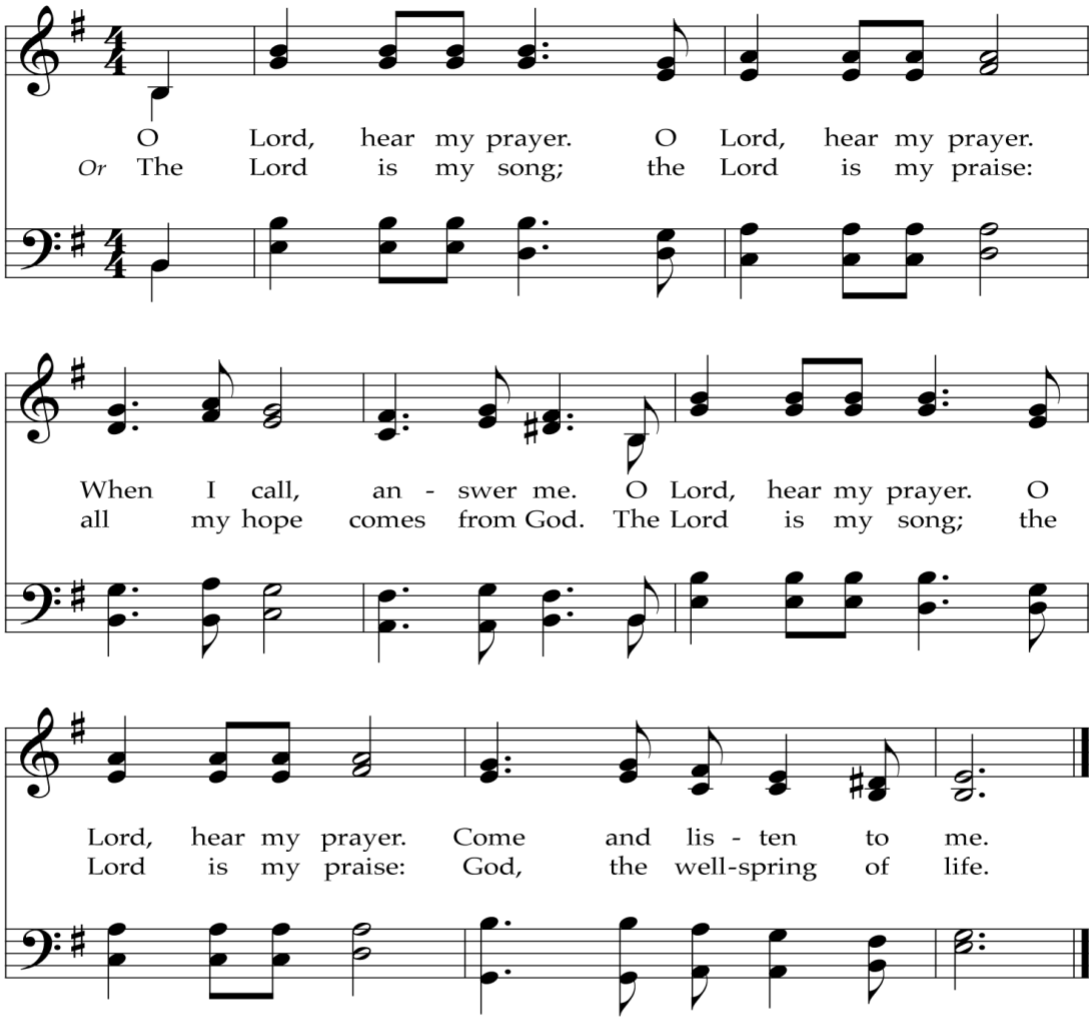
Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

TEXT: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983
MUSIC: Carl F. Schalk, 1983
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House
Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

ROEDER
9.6.7.7

O Lord, Hear My Prayer 471

The Lord Is My Song

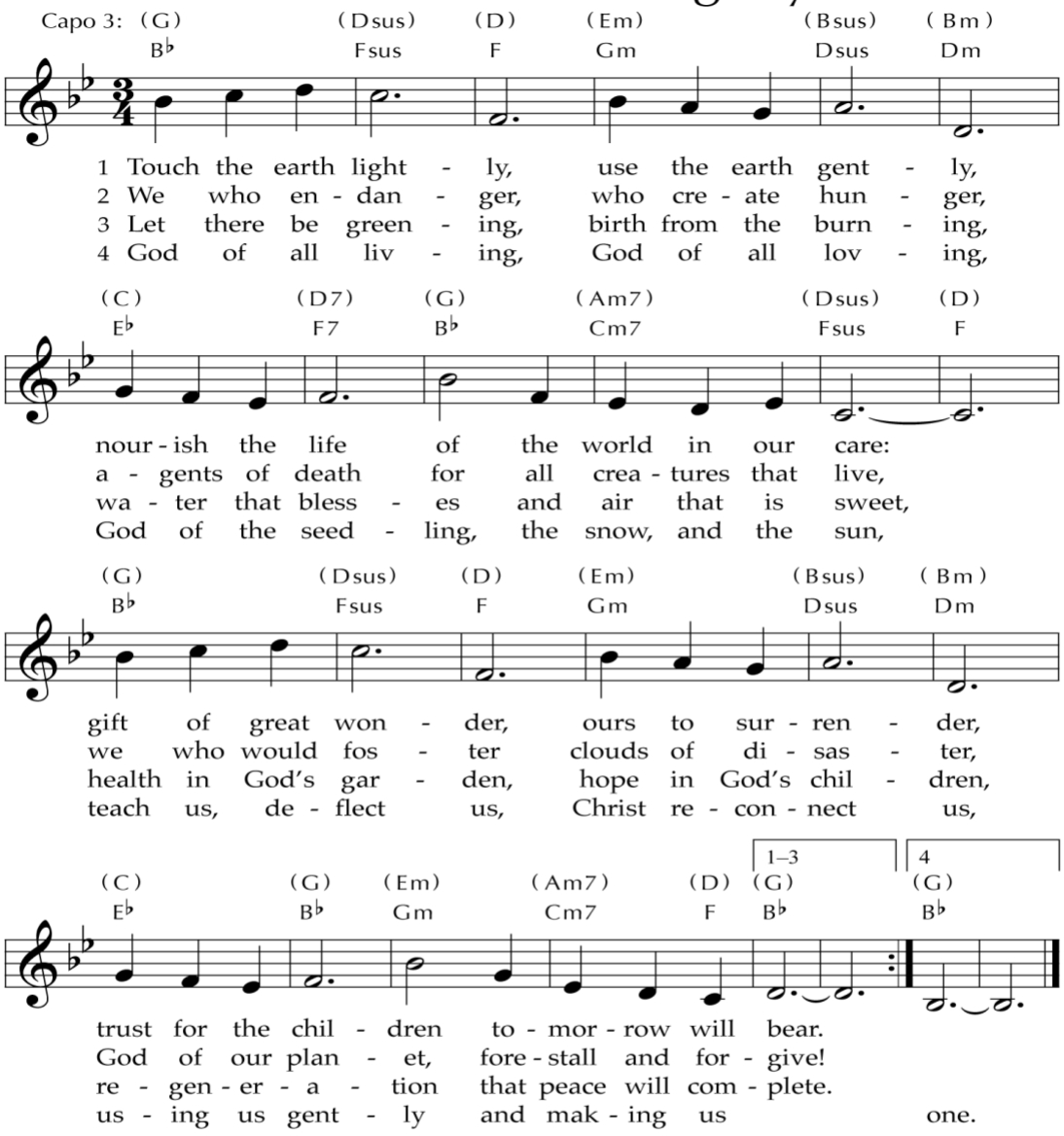


This chant from the Taizé Community in France is provided with two sets of words, either of which can be used as best suits the occasion. The first text is based on Psalm 102:1–2, and the second is an amalgam of phrases drawn from Psalms 118:14, 25:5, 36:9, and John 4:14.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1982, 1991
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982
Text and Music © 1982 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

713 Touch the Earth Lightly
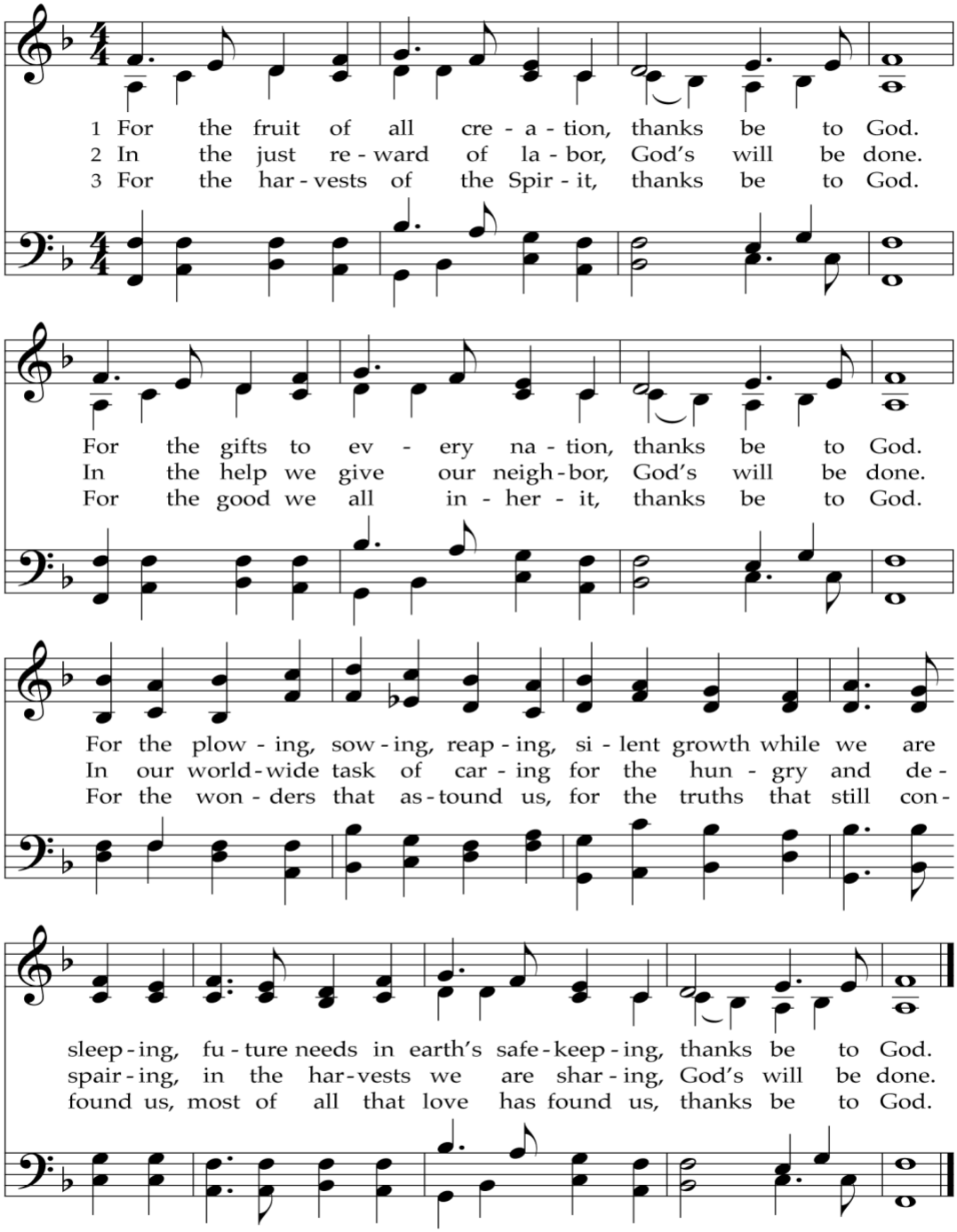


An Australian aboriginal saying opens this gentle hymn from New Zealand on the stewardship of creation. "Clouds of disaster" in the second stanza refers to the testing of nuclear devices then occurring in the Pacific Ocean, but the concern for all created things is timeless.

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1991
MUSIC: Colin Gibson, 1992
Text and Music © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

TENDERNESS
5.5.10.D

For the Fruit of All Creation 36



Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1970, alt.
MUSIC: Welsh melody, c. 1784
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company

AR HYD Y NOS
8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4