Westminster Presbyterian Church

LITURGY FOR AUGUST 2, 2020
9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gathering Words **~based on Isaiah 55:1-5~** **Rich and Josie Drushal**

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters!
You that have no money, come buy and eat!
Come, find nourishment that has no price.

Why do you spend money for that which is not bread,
and labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me. Eat what is good.
Incline your ear. Come to me. Listen, so you may live.

Opening Prayer **Rich and Josie Drushal**

God of abundance,
You promised a partnership and friendship with us that does not come to an end.

You nudge us to come to you,
For in your presence we find rest and shall be satisfied.

Like our ancestor Jacob, we find ourselves wrestling: with each other, with ourselves, with you, Holy One.

Put the right spirit in us.
May we choose, like Jacob –
to stay present; to keep wrestling,
not letting go until your blessing is recognized and received.
Amen.

Opening Hymn Break Though the Bread of Life GTG460

Scripture Reading Genesis 32: 22-31 Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford
of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24 Jacob
was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against
Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he
said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." 27 So he
said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called
Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked
him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.
30So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved."
31The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Sermon Wrestling and Naming Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

Invitation to Offering

Hymn All Belong Here *The Many*

Lyrics: Lenora Rand. Music: Hannah Rand

1.
When you're not sure who you really are
When all you feel is the shape of your scars
And you have more wounds than you can count
Open your eyes, look all around
You aren't alone, this is your home

Chorus:
Come and remember who you are here
Do this to remember who I am
Come and remember you belong here
All belong here

2.
When you don't know how to forgive
When locked doors seem like the only way to live
And you've got more questions than you can count
Open your eyes, look all around
You aren't alone, this is your home

Chorus

Bridge
At this table come as you are
Broken and bleeding's ok
At this table eat and be filled
Come and drink in this grace.

Chorus

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

The God of crossings and healings be with you.
And also with you.

We lift our hearts to you, O God, who travel every journey with us.
You keep filling us with the abundance of your constant love,
But we long for the empty promises of power and prestige and wealth, of sin and death,
Breaking your heart and ours as we follow them.
You keep calling us back to you through prophets.
You sent Jesus, who brought bread that satisfies and water that quenches thirst.

Yet, we deserted you too, Jesus, our friend, our healer, our life-giver.

As we continued to wrestle with each other, with ourselves,
You were filled with compassion and came to be with us in our pain.
In the face of our doubts and fears, you told stories of your grace and love.
Instead of avoiding our violence and anger, you went straight through it,
Even walking into death so we may have life.

As we gather at this crossing point in our lives,
We ask that you pour out your Spirit of healing on us,
And on these gifts of the bread and the cup.
As you feed us with this meal, may we find satisfaction to our needs in the uncertainty of these pandemic days.
May we see not only crumbs on your Table, but enough leftovers for us to feed a hungry world.
May see not only a few drops in the cup but enough grace for us and for all the empty hearts of your children forgotten and alone in the world.

May this meal help us persevere in our wrestling for what is good, and just and beautiful.
May we find your blessing in the struggle for ourselves and for others.

Till we gather around your Table of grace,
With all our struggles over and all our pain left behind,
joining with all the children of your Beloved Community,
forever singing of your love.
In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises GTG538

Benediction Dr. Enikő Ferenczy