Westminster
Presbyterian Church

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

Third Sunday in Lent
Communion
March 3, 2024

Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Erin Guzmán**

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 **"Lonesome Valley"** ***Traditional, arr. C. Curtis***
Bob Iams, piano

***Gathering Words** *(inspired by Psalm 19)* **Barbara Tartir**

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

If you ask the sky who God is,
the sky will tell you of God's reach.
If you ask the day who God is,
the sun will tell you of God's warmth.
If you ask the night who God is,
the moon will tell you of God's comfort.
"The heavens are telling the glory of God."
Are you listening?
We are listening!
We will sing of God's glory.
Let us worship Holy God.

Opening Prayer **Barbara Tartir**

Holy One,
For generations people have prayed the Psalms,
have asked for your presence in their lives. For generations people have whispered:
"May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable and pleasing to you, O God."

For generations we have gathered here,
we have prayed to feel your presence in our midst.
So once again, we turn our hearts to your Word.
Still our busy minds so that we might truly hear you today,
as we seek to answer, "Who do you say you that I am?"
With joy and hope we pray, amen.

Opening Hymn No. 23 "God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"** ***Pleading Savior

Call to Confession **Barbara Tartir**

Friends, join me in the prayer of confession.
Whether we whisper these words or speak them with conviction, may we trust
that our gracious and merciful God is listening with love. Let us pray together:

Prayer of Confession **Barbara Tartir**

Holy God,
Some days, we are quick to declare your goodness.
Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith.
Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.
Forgive us for losing sight of you.

Some days we are quick to trust your blessings —
trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.
Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.
Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.

We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith.
But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves,
we ask for your tender grace.
Pull us closer toward you.
Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response **"Jésus le Christ" (** ***music at bottom)*** ***Jacques Berthier***

Assurance of Forgiveness **Barbara Tartir**

Friends,
whether we speak to God
with hope in your heart or with doubt in your throat —
God will *always* listen with love and mercy.
So rest in this good news:

Regardless of how loudly we live your faith — we belong to God.
We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.
Let's speak *this* good news with confidence. Amen.

Musical Offering **"Lord of the Dance"** ***Shaker Tune, arr. D Wagner***

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. Erin Guzmán**

Scripture Reading **Matthew 16:13-20** ***(CEB)*** **Rev. Erin Guzmán**

13 Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do
people say the Human One is?"

14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

15 He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Then Jesus replied, "Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. 18 I tell you that you are Peter. And

I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it.
19 I'll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be
fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven."
20 Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

Sermon **Wandering Heart: Who Do You Say That I Am?** **Rev. Erin Guzmán**

Hymn No. 314 **"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"** ***Christ, Be Our Light***

Communion **Rev. Erin Guzmán**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy and gracious God,
Some days, we are quick to declare your goodness.
Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith.
Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.
Some days we are quick to trust your blessings —
trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.
Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.
We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith.
But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves,
we ask for tender grace.

Holy God, like Peter, fan the flames of our faith.
Like Peter, invite us to step out of our boats.
And like Peter, use us to care for those in need,
to tell your story, and to build a better world.
We remember, and we believe.

Remember how Jesus fed everyone.
Remember how none were turned away.
Remember how he said, "Do this in remembrance of me."
Come and remember. There is room for you here.

And so let us come to the table,
Expectant, Eager, Open

to tasting the rich blessings of your new creation
born from unexpected places, and people, and experiences.

In this meal,
we remember the life, death, and resurrection of
the One who still takes on flesh among us today.

As we meet at the feast of your family, O God,
we carry with us those who hunger and thirst,
who cannot imagine the abundance of this table,
who feel excluded or forgotten,
who live with fear and violence,
who wait for justice, who long for peace,
who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.
While we celebrate this day, some in your family see no cause for celebration.
While we have feasted on your word,
some are kept in ignorance, banned from reading, or are fed only words of hatred.
While we have learned and spoken and prayed together,
some have been silenced and held aside.

Come Holy Spirit,
Breath of God, Renewer of life,
settle on these gifts and all who gather here,
that we might be transformed through the power
of your radical love, your eternal embrace, and your grace that makes all things news.
For the sake of our shared lives, the life of this land on which we live,
and the lives of those yet to come, nourish us and renew our hope.

We offer our hearts and lives to you, O God, praying that you would use grain and grape to write your covenant of love within us until grace overflows.

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 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. 722** **"Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak"** ***Canonbury

Benediction **Rev. Erin Guzmán**

Postlude **"Recessional on 'Lobe Den Herren"** ***arr. Dan R. Edwards***

The service continues with fellowship.

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*Please stand in body or in spirit
*The prayers were adapted from *Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*
The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving was adapted from Rev. Sara Ewing-Merrill.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Bob Iams, piano
*Sunday service assistant/treats: Barbara Tartir

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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.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 3

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

Monday, March 4

- Scout Troop 61 – 6:30 pm – Mackey Hall

Wednesday, March 6

- Wooster Area Interfaith Partners – 9 am – Zoom

Thursday, March 7

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place
- Lenten study – 7 pm – The Lounge

Sunday, March 10

- Choir rehearsal – 9 am – Mackey Hall
- Worship Service followed by Annual Congregational Meeting – 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. James Henery
Tech/Media Administrator Jack Veney
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.
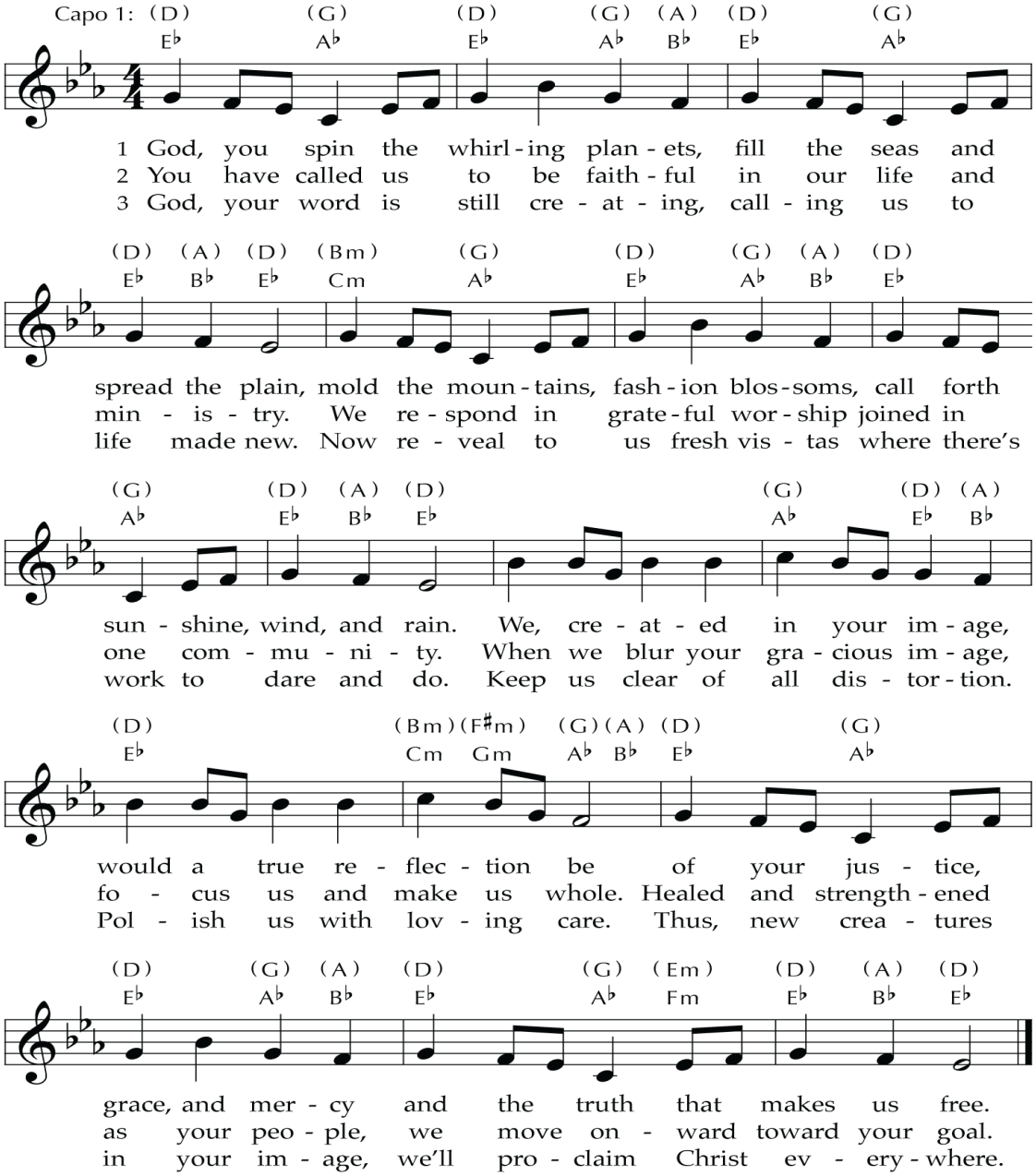
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Our 150th year celebration, May 5, 2024



(link to the WPC 150th Anniversary webpage: **https://wpcwoo.org/150)**

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets 23
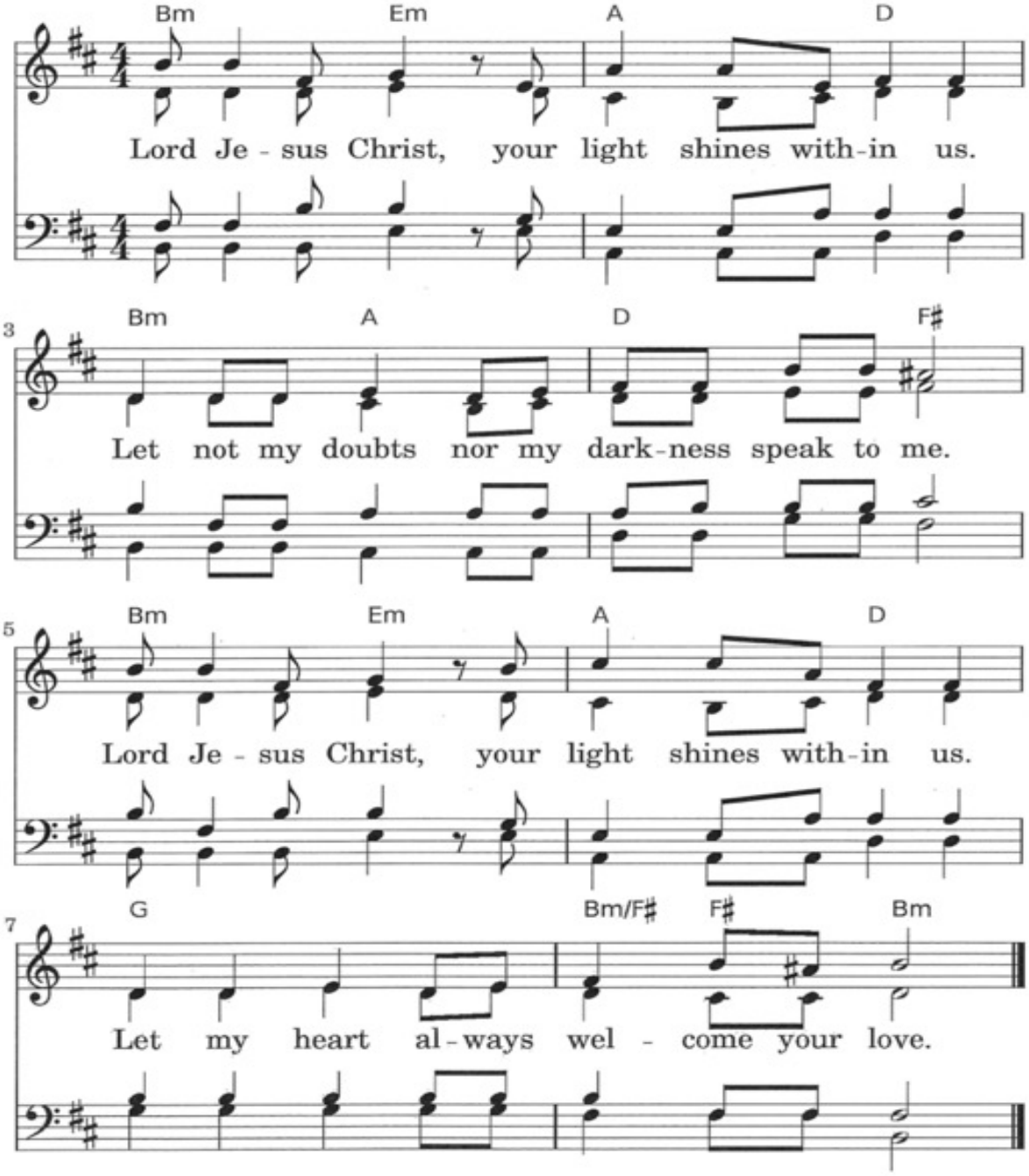


This text was written for the 1979 National Meeting of United Presbyterian Women, whose theme, "In the Image of God," is variously considered here as reflection, focus, distortion, and polishing for clarity. The words are well set to an anonymous 19th-century American tune.

TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1978
MUSIC: American melody, 1830; harm. Richard Proulx, 1986
Text © 1980 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)
Music Harm. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

PLEADING SAVIOR
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate harmonization, 717)
(alternate tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN)
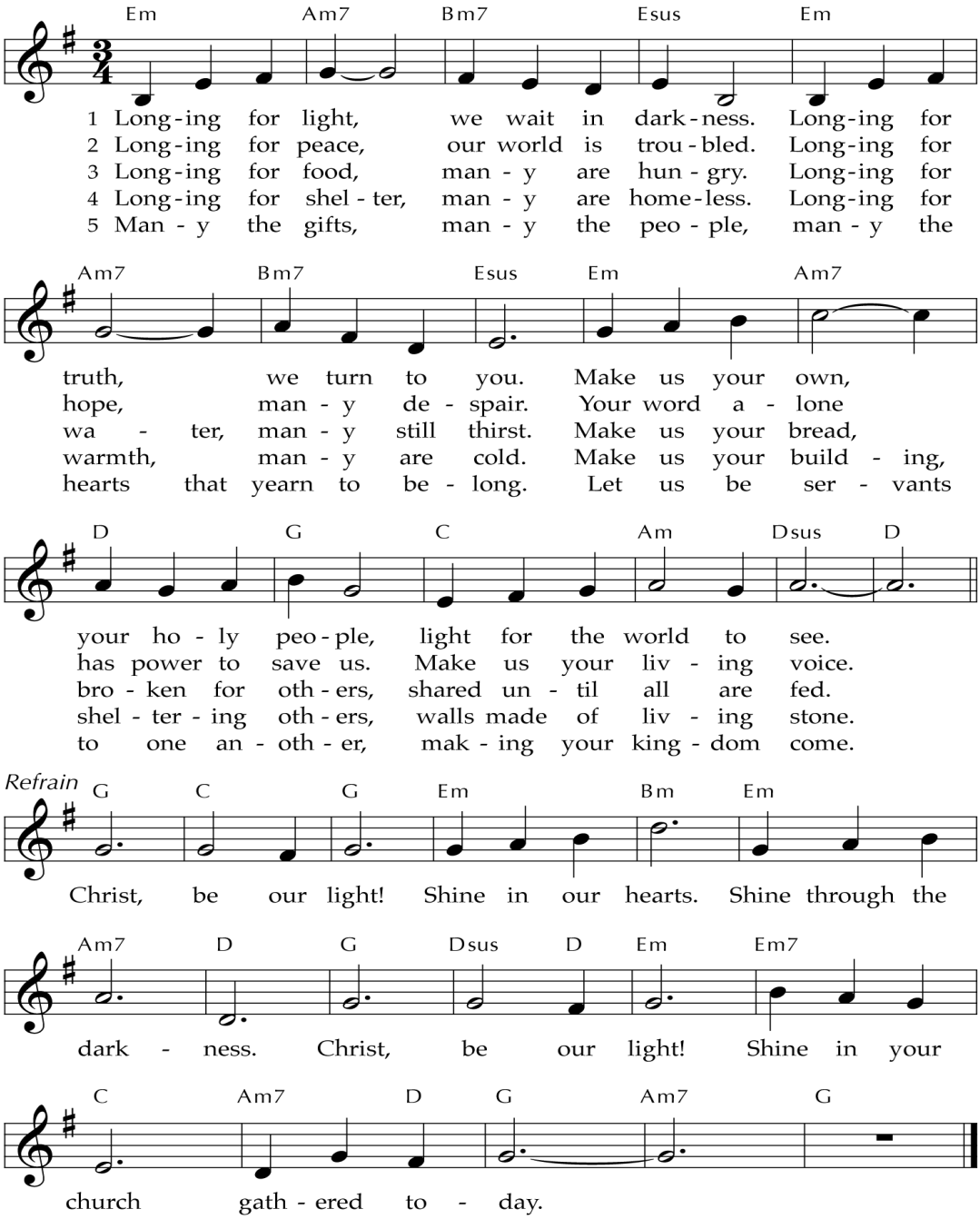
3137 Lord Jesus Christ, Your Light Shines

(Jésus le Christ)



Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

Christ, Be Our Light
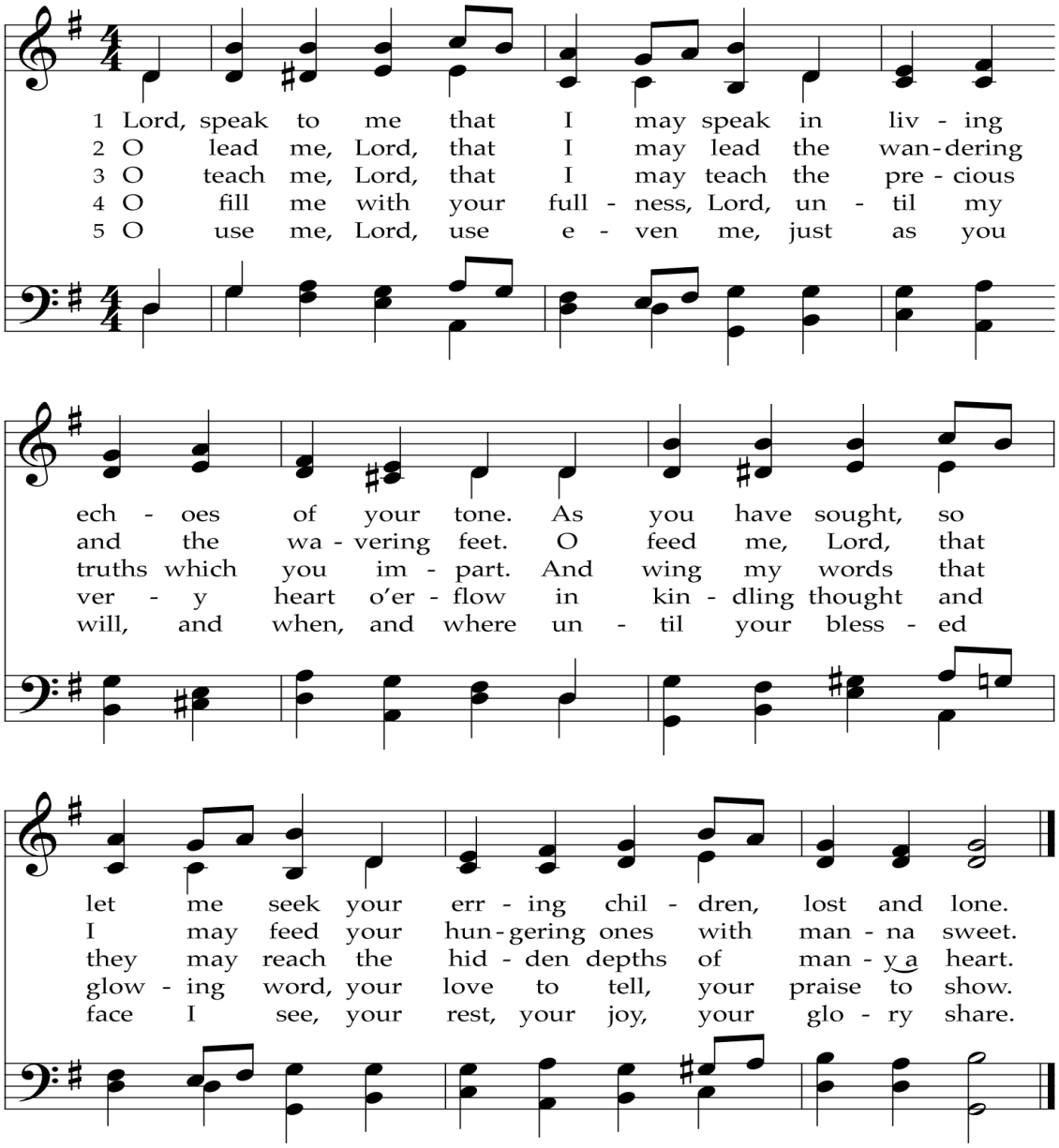


By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.

TEXT and MUSIC: Bernadette Farrell, 1993
Text and Music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell (Published by OCP)

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
9.8.9.6 with refrain

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

722 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak



Two great truths inform this text: first, that the testimony of experience is powerful and persuasive; and second, that no one should venture to minister on one's own strength rather than God's. The tune reflects a 19th-century practice of adapting piano pieces as hymn tunes.

TEXT: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872, alt.
MUSIC: Robert Schumann, 1839, alt.

CANONBURY
LM