Westminster Presbyterian Church

January 23, 2022
3rd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

Prelude — "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Chorale from Cantata No. 147)" — J.S. BACH /ARR. MARTHA POWELL SETCHELL

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

***Gathering Words** — **Dorothy Iams**

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

All who seek the kin-dom of God, come.
From the confines of preconceived notions,
from the well-worn box of "the way things have always been,"
from the muffled cocoon of personal comfort,
come and be born anew into a good and spacious land,
come and be born anew into a community of love and justice,
We come to be born anew into the light of life.

***Opening Prayer** — **Dorothy Iams**

Your Spirit blows where she will, and we are listening, O God,
praying to be ready to move when you call.

We do not know where you are leading,
so we ask for the blessing of curiosity to overcome our fear,
that we may seek you, by day or by night.

When we speak without understanding,
give us also ears to listen for your story in the voices of others,
that we may learn the deeper truth you call us to live.
Bring your kin-dom to birth among us, and within us, and through us,
we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #286** — "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" Verses 1 and 2 — TRENTHAM

Call to Confession — **Dorothy Iams**

We do not always recognize our need for God's grace, God's hope, God's justice. Yet, God keeps drawing us near. God desires our wholeness and is waiting to forgive us and calls us God's beloved children. So let us come to God and pray together our prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession **Dorothy Iams**

Loving God,
you come among us that we may recognize the truth
and live your abundant life, even now.
Your grace opens us to the honesty
that allows us to change directions.

We confess that we do not want to look at ourselves in the full light of your day.
We prefer to tell ourselves stories that justify our choices
and keep our experience at the center of "normal."
We do not listen to stories that might force us
to grapple with things we would rather not admit.

We confess we find it easier to pretend everything is fine,
because then we have no need to change.

Forgive us, Holy God,
and turn our eyes to look our shadow square-on.
Help us to face those things that have hurt us, others, and your creation,
and to tell the truth about them, that we may be healed.

We ask in the name of Jesus the Christ, in whom you reveal
the fullness of your love meeting our need.
Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness **Dorothy Iams**

Family of faith,
God delights in each one of us.
There is nothing we can do to lose God's love.

So rest in this promise:

God keeps revealing God's life-giving power,
Even when we do not expect it, or do not think we deserve it.
God is lavish in loving us.
We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Musical Response "Melody" ARAM KHATCHATURIAN

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

Scripture Reading **John 3: 1-21** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

3Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.
[2]He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God;
for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."
[3]Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the
kingdom of God without being born from above."
[4]Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old?
Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"
[5]Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God
without being born of water and Spirit.

[6]What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.
[7]Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'
[8]The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."
[9]Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"
[10]Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?
[11]"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen;
yet you do not receive our testimony.

[12]If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe,
how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?
[13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.
[14]And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
[15]that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
[16]"For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
[17]"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.

[18]Those who believe in him are not condemned;
but those who do not believe are condemned already,
because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.
[19]And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world,
and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.
[20]For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light,
so that their deeds may not be exposed.
[21]But those who do what is true come to the light,
so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Sermon **Oriented by Love** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 490 "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters" BEACH SPRING
Verses 1 and 3

Sharing Joys and Concerns **Dorothy Iams**

Prayer of the People **Dorothy Iams**

We ask 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. 754** "Help Us Accept Each Other" BARONITA
Verses 1 and 4

***Benediction** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Postlude "Prelude and Fugue in E Flat Major" J.S. BACH

The service continues with fellowship.

To assure the safety of all, currently we are not passing the offering plates. They are in the back of the sanctuary. We invite you to place your gifts there. Thank you for your generosity.

Prayers were adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson

Music:	Organ	Divine Gbagbo
	Piano	Mary-Marie Deauclaire
	Piano	Bob Iams
	Organ	Ken Shafer

Tech. Assistant/Event Steward	Tony Mendiola
Flowers	Candy Relle
Sunday Assistant	Candy Relle

Westminster Presbyterian Church

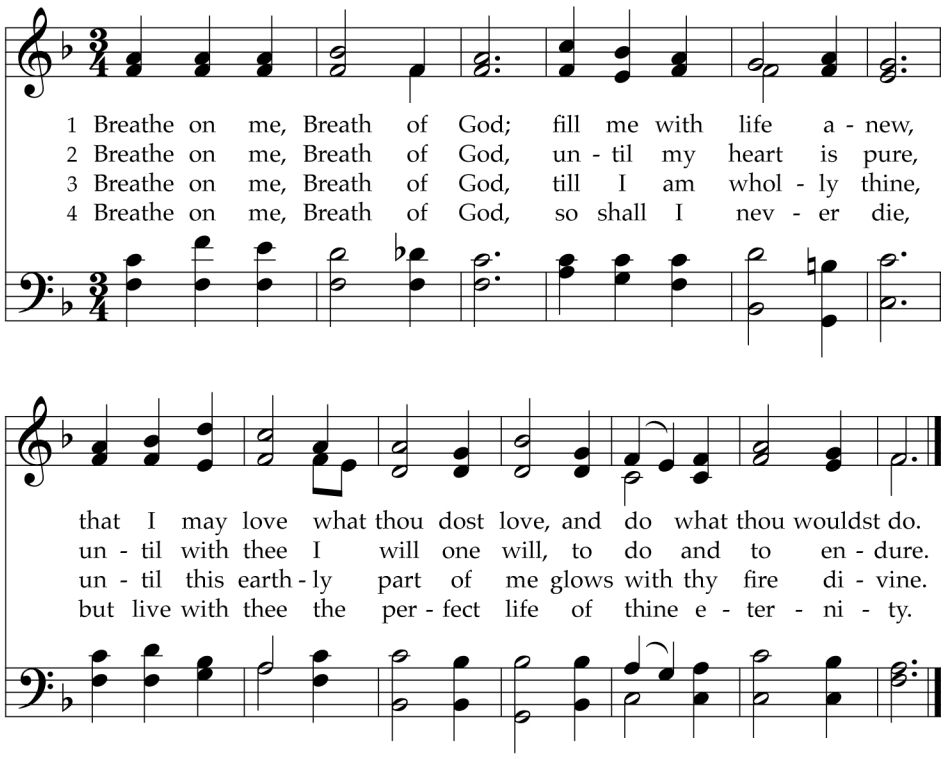
Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Office Administrator Judy Mowrer
Minister of Music and Worship Arts Dr. Divine Gbagbo
Worship Accompanists Mary-Marie Deauclaire, Ken Shafer
AV Assistant/Event Steward. Tony Mendiola
Custodian Kara Akers

353 East Pine Street, Wooster, OH 44691 Phone: 330-263-2398
Office Hours: 8:30 am–1:30 pm, Tuesday through Friday
Website: www.wpcwooster.org
www.facebook.com/wpcwooster / www.instagram.com/wpc_wooster/

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.

Verses 1 and 2

Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286



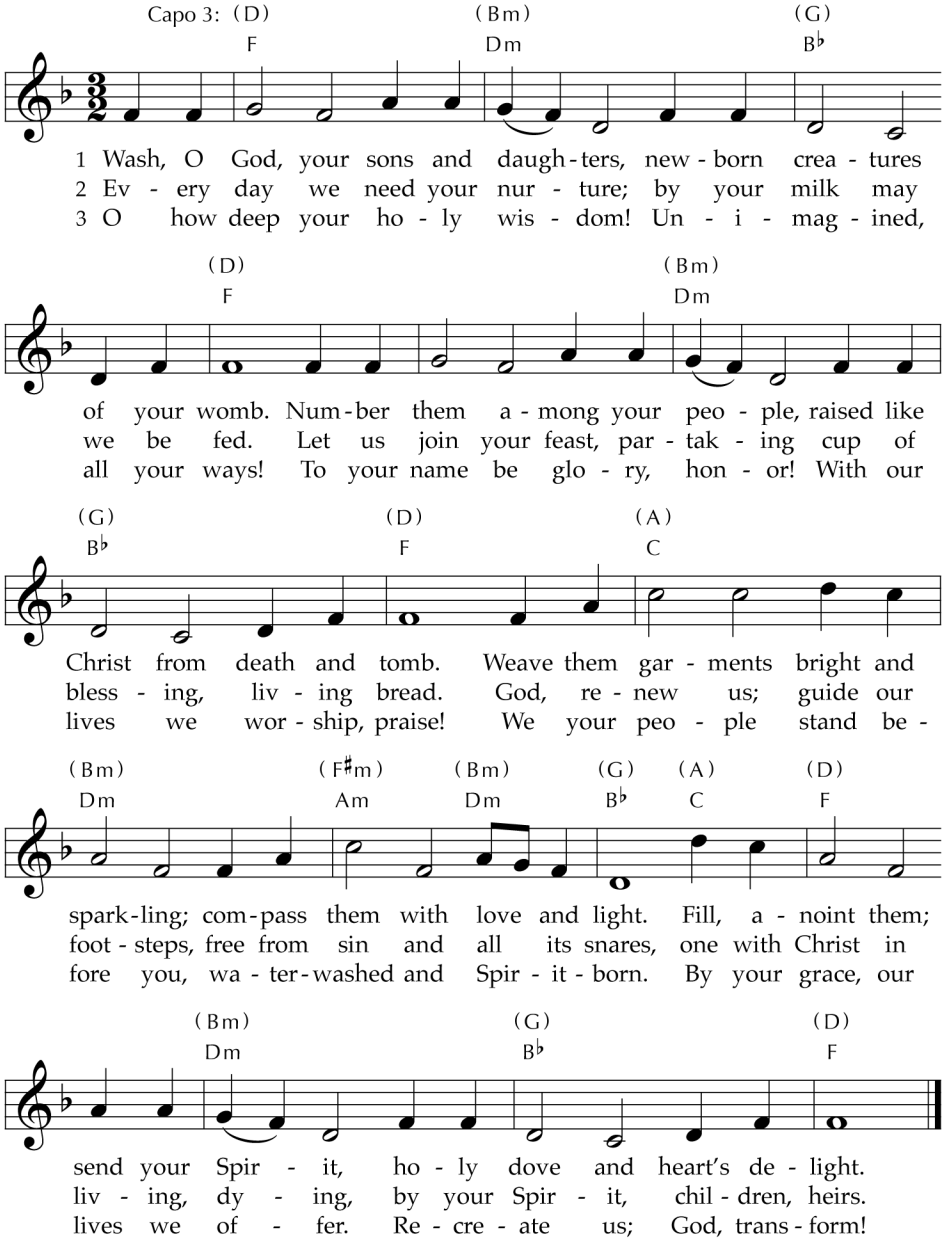
In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

TEXT: Edwin Hatch, 1878
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
SM

Verses 1 and 3

490 Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.
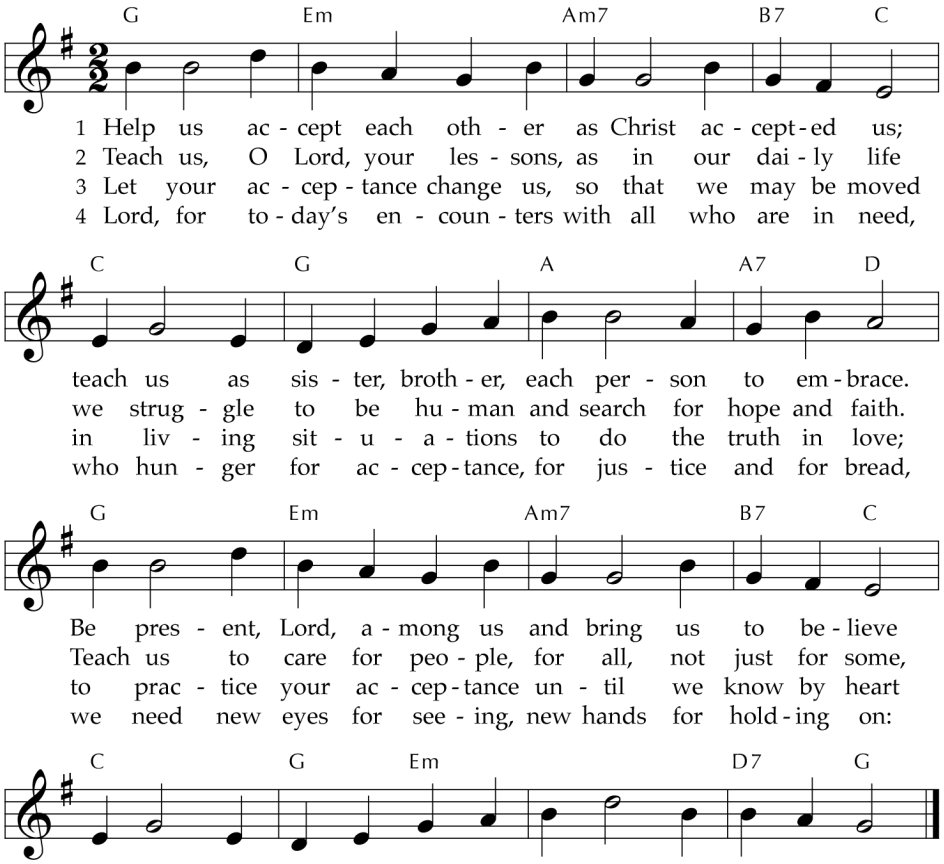
This text incorporates many of the images associated with the water of baptism in the Thanksgiving Over the Water in *The Book of Common Worship*, especially nourishment, the calling forth of life, cleansing and renewal, freedom from bondage, and sharing in Christ's resurrection.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1987, rev.
MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958
BEACH SPRING
8.7.8.7.D

Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)
Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press/Van Ness Press, Inc. (admin. Music Services)

Verses 1 and 4

Help Us Accept Each Other 754



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1974
MUSIC: Doreen Potter, 1974
Text and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

BARONITA
7.6.7.6.D