Westminster
Presbyterian Church
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Reformation Sunday
October 29, 2023

Welcome and Announcements — **Rev. Dr. Enikö 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 — **"Variations on 'St. Anne'"** — ***R. Williamson***

***Gathering Words** — **Josie Drushal**

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

Please join in our responsive gathering words. If you are on the side of the glass doors, you are group no. 1. If you are closer to the wood-paneled doors, you are group no. 2.

1: To whom do we go for advice?
2: Wise elders, faithful friends, celebrities, YouTube…
All: Or the Living God?

2: When we have options, how do we choose?
1: What will earn the most, provide the most political advantage, gain us power…
All: Or what God calls for?

1: Who will we trust?
2: How will we learn?
All: God speaks, if we will listen.

Opening Prayer — **Josie Drushal**

Whatever the concerns of our hearts today, O God,
you come to disrupt and to re-shape,

and though we are not certain we want that,
we trust your re-forming Spirit to open anew the path of abundant life.

Where we cling to tradition, desire, nostalgia, position, or power,
may your Word be heard once again,
energizing and empowering your people to be your Body in this world, today.

Where we have come to rely on ourselves, on things, or on structures,
may your grace transform us,
and become the true and only foundation for our life together.
Form and re-form us, until we reflect only your glory.
Amen.

*Opening Hymn No. 385 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" *Old Hundredth*

Call to Confession Rich Drushal

God of history, you know our story better than we know ourselves.
Your steadfast love is our ever-present help and hope.
Grant us courage and honesty to confess the ways
our interior lives and their outward expressions do not align with your ways
so we may find wholeness. Let us pray together our prayer of confession …

Prayer of Confession Rich Drushal

Gracious and loving God,
We confess that we often forget the wonder of your creation.
We forget that created in your image, we are endowed with gifts and responsibilities
to join you in fashioning your reign of abundance.

We often shrink ourselves into a tiny box because we listen to the voices
that demean or our own fears, rather than to your words.
We step back from the leadership you ask of us,
and instead make you in our own image and use you for our own smaller ends.

Forgive us when what we share with others is a poor reflection of your marvelous love.

Re-form us and inspire us by your love to embrace all that you created us to be:
loved, forgiven, free, heirs and co-conspirators in bringing about your Kin-dom.

We ask in the name of the One who prayed "not my will but yours be done,"
Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 698 "Take, O Take Me as I Am" *(sung multiple times) Take Me as I Am*

Assurance of Forgiveness — Rich Drushal

Friends, anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
In Christ, we are forgiven and freed. We are formed and re-formed to be builders of God's reign of abundance for all. Amen.

Musical Offering — "Meditation on 'Be Thou My Vision'" — *arr. R. Lau*

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. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy

Scripture Reading — **1 Kings 12:1-17** ***(NRSV translation)*** — Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy

12 Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. **2** When Jeroboam
son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam
remained in Egypt. **3** And they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and
said to Rehoboam, **4** "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now, therefore, lighten the hard service of your
father and his heavy yoke that he placed on us, and we will serve you." **5** He said to them, "Go away for
three days, then come again to me." So the people went away.

6 Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the older men who had attended his father Solomon while he
was still alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?" **7** They answered him, "If you will
be a servant to this people today and serve them and speak good words to them when you answer them,
then they will be your servants forever."

8 But he disregarded the advice that the older men gave him and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and now attended him. **9** He said to them, "What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, 'Lighten the yoke that your father put on us'?" **10** The young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus you should say to this people who spoke to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you must lighten it for us'; thus you should say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins. **11** Now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'"

12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had said, "Come to me again the third day." **13** The king answered the people harshly. He disregarded the advice that the older men had given him **14** and spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions." **15** So the king did not listen to the people because it was a turn of affairs brought about by the Lord to fulfill his word that the Lord had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat.

16 When all Israel saw that the king would not listen to them, the people answered the king,
"What share do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse.
To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, O David."
So Israel went away to their tents. **17**But Rehoboam reigned over the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah.

Sermon **Re-formed** Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy

*Hymn No. 754 "Help Us Accept Each Other"
Baronita

Sharing of Joys and Concerns Josie and Rich Drushal

Prayer of the People Josie and Rich Drushal

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. 379	"We Shall Overcome"	*We Shall Overcome*
Benediction		Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy
Postlude	"Crown Him with Many Crowns"	*G. Elvey (arr. A. Page)*

The service continues with fellowship.

*The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Assurance of Pardon were written by Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy. All other prayers were adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson, written for the *Bibleworm*.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ
*Sunday Service Assistant/Flowers: Josie Drushal

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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.

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, Oct. 29

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

Monday, Oct. 30

- Troop 61 – 6 pm – Mackey Hall

Wednesday, Nov. 1

- Wooster Religious Studies Academy series – 7 pm – The Alley (Lower level of Lowry)

Thursday, Nov. 2

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place

Sunday, Nov. 5

- Worship Service with Communion – 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
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola
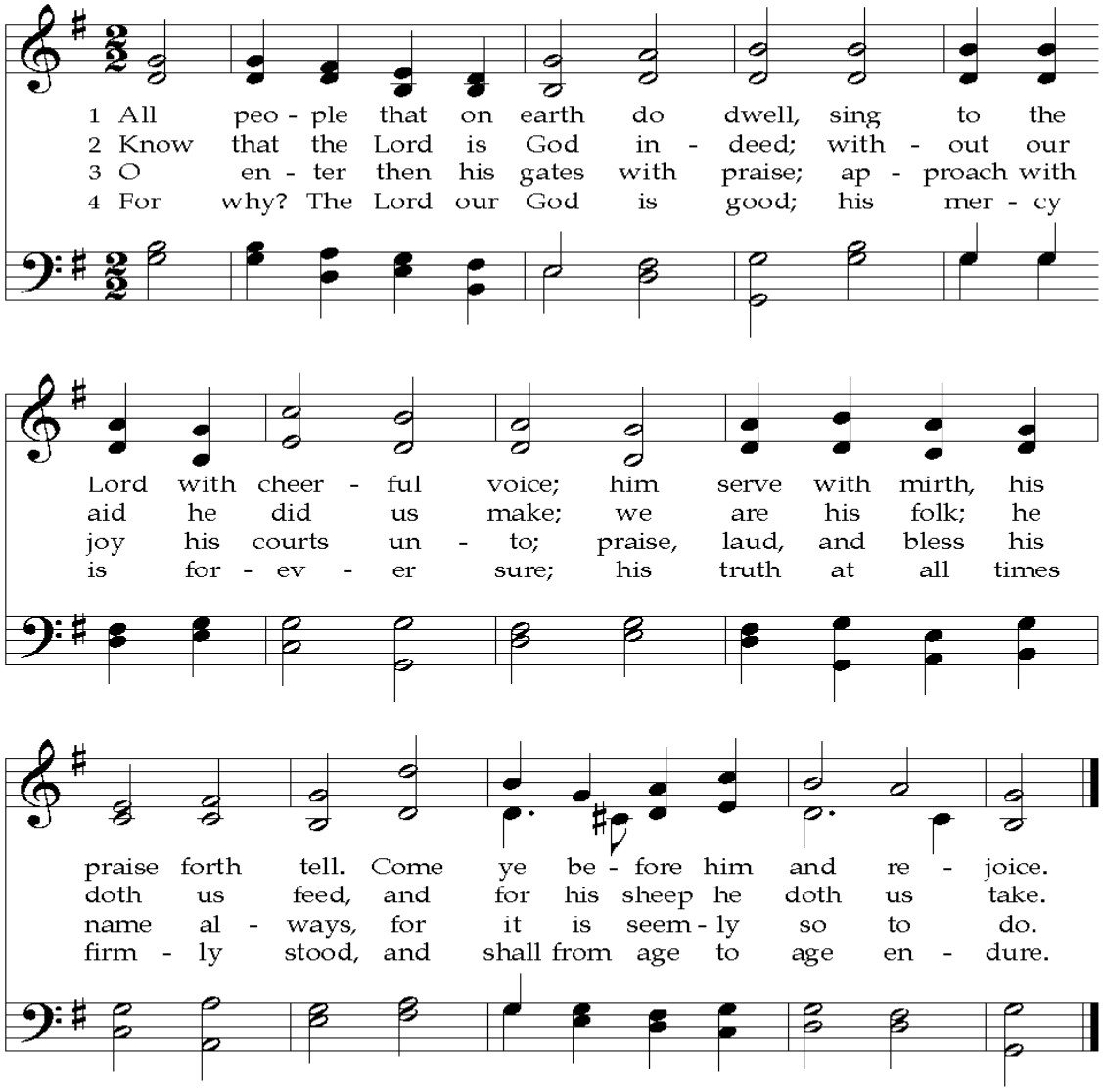
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

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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.

All People That on Earth Do Dwell 385

(Psalm 100)



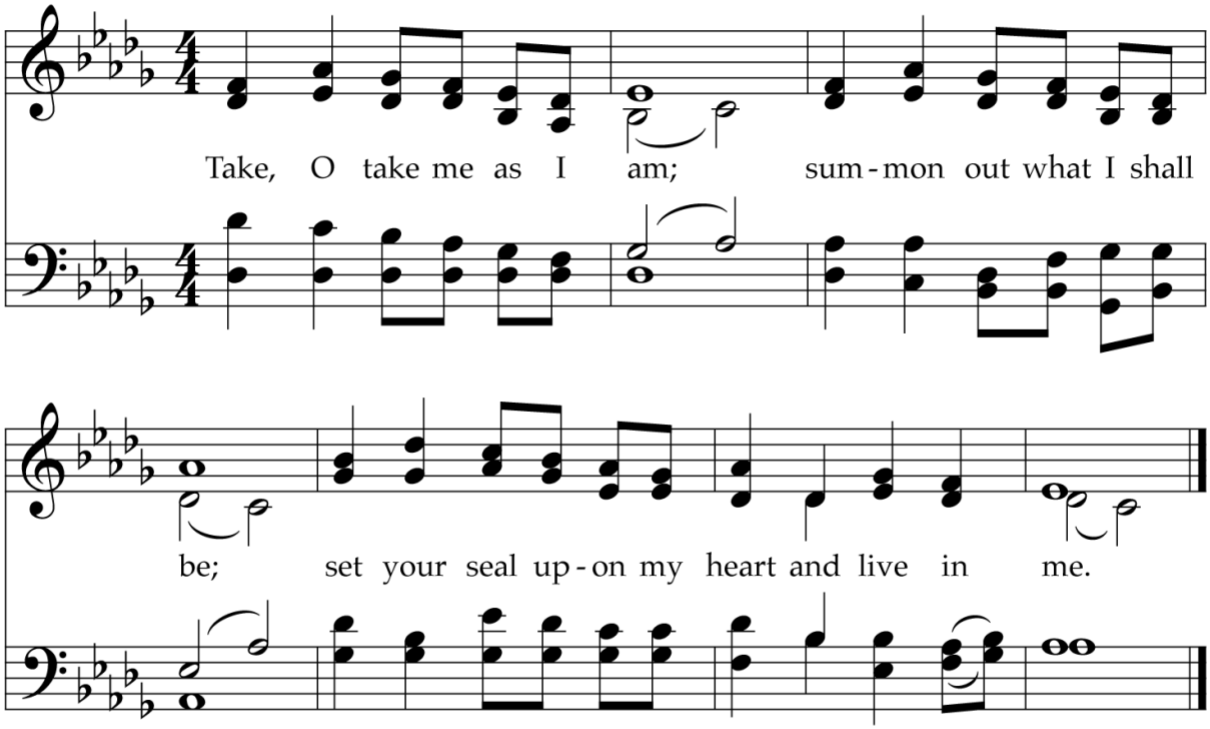
In a pairing that began in 1561, this paraphrase of Psalm 100 by a Scot is set to a tune that a French composer originally created for Psalm 134 in the Genevan Psalter of 1551. They have appeared together in nearly every comprehensive English-language hymnal since then.

TEXT: William Kethe, 1560
MUSIC: Attr. Louis Bourgeois, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am
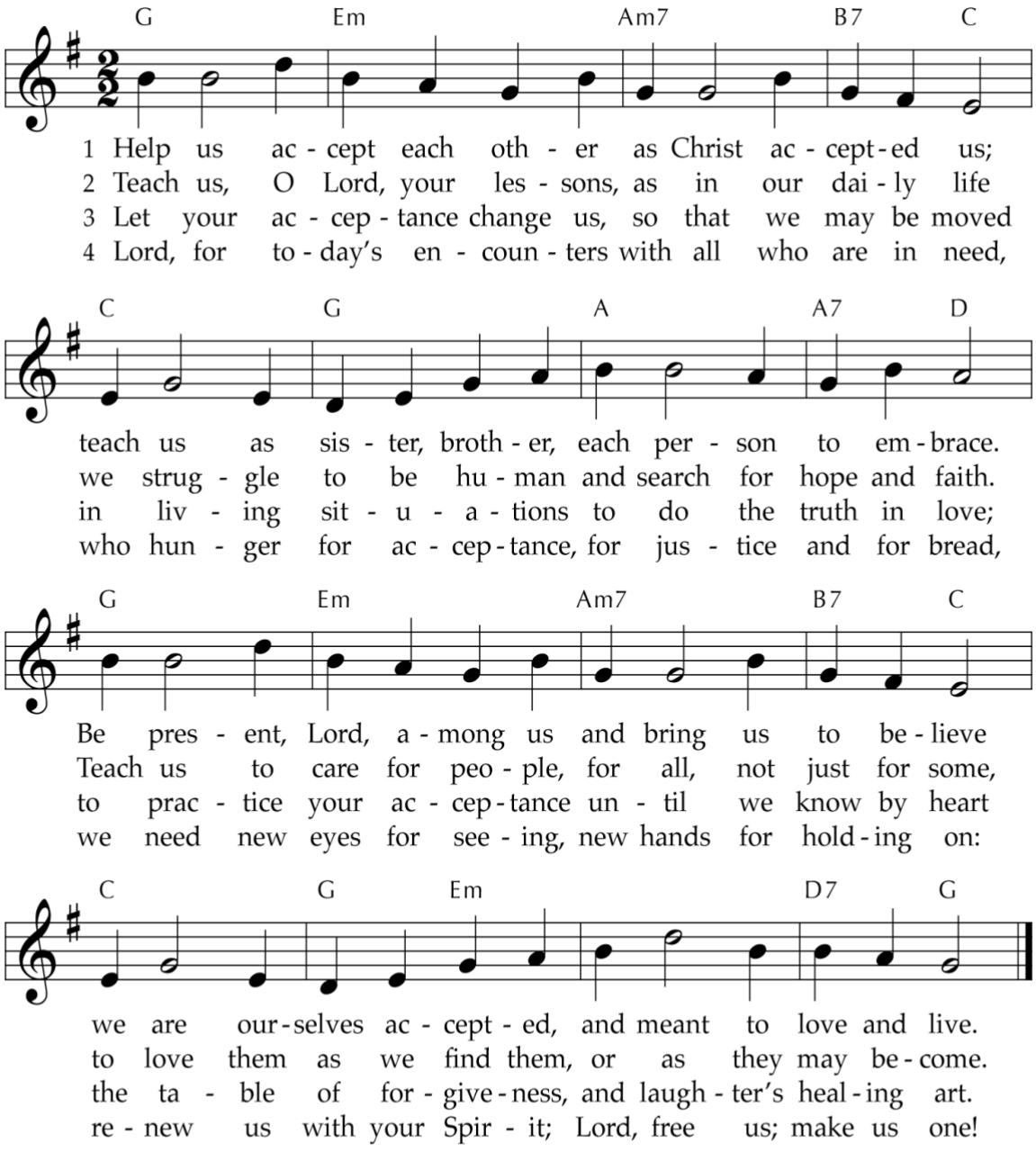


The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
Text and Music © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM
7.7.7.4

Help Us Accept Each Other 754
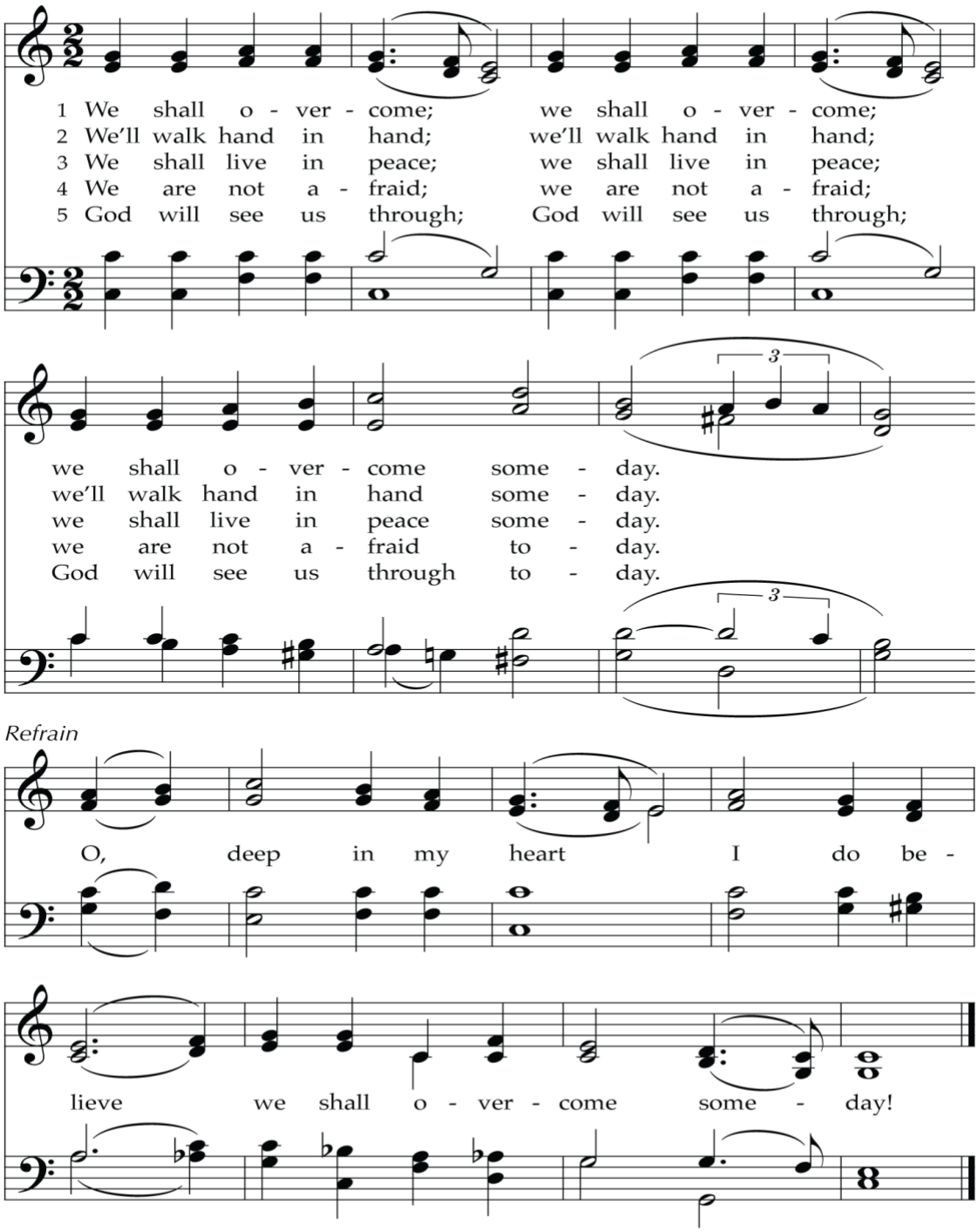


Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

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

379 We Shall Overcome



Though now associated primarily with the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th century, this spiritual most likely dates from the days of the slave trade; and similarities with the tune SICILIAN MARINERS (see no. 546) suggest that it might have been a worksong aboard slave ships.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, 1986
Music Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

WE SHALL OVERCOME
Irregular