Westminster
Presbyterian Church

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Maundy Thursday Communion
March 28, 2024

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 **"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"** **Randolph Johnston**

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34)

We invite you to bring your body into the worship of God. You may do so seated,
by listening to your heartbeat or noticing the rise and fall of your abdomen with each breath.

***Invitation to Worship** **Sherry Hatter-Miller**

The first Maundy Thursday was filled with questions:
Surely, not I, Lord?
Couldn't you keep watch with me for one hour?
Why do we need more witnesses?
Didn't I see you with him in the garden?

Tonight, we seek not to answer these questions but to sit with them.
We sit with them in the hope that
in them we will find peace,
in them we will find grace,
in them we will find love,
in them we will find ourselves.

Come, let us worship God together.

Let us pray…

Jesus, we come tonight seeking.
We seek to remember your gentle care for us.
We seek to remember your love for us.
We seek to remember your sorrow and suffering for us.
As we seek you, may we find you and in finding you,
may we find ourselves. Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 203 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"** ***Chereponi

Scripture Reading **John 13: 1-5 (CEB)** **Sherry Hatter-Miller**

13 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. [2] The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper [3] Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, [4] got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. [5] Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

Communion **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Words of Institution
Communion of the People

Hymn No. 525 "Let Us Break Bread Together" ***Let Us Break Bread***

Prayer after Communion

Holy Mystery,
We give thanks for your transforming love.
As you nourish us through this holy meal, remind us that love is a *doing*.
Leave us hungry for your Kin-dom.
Leave us thirsty for the justice that you pour out on the world.
Let us see you in the faces of strangers and friends.
Through Holy Communion, teach us how to be for others as you are for us:

sustaining help, loving accompaniment, eternal hope. Amen.

Scripture Reading **John 13: 6-17 (CEB)**

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." 11 For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

12 After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16 Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Visio Divina ***(please see at the end of the hymns)***

Center yourself by taking a deep breath and relaxing your body as best you can. Allow your shoulders to lower away from your ears. Let your arms rest in your lap and let your feet be fully supported by the floor. Feel the weight of your body held by the chair. Spend this time in quiet. Open yourself up to God's voice.

(pause)

Take a deep breath in and out. Continue breathing deeply as you read the image. In this moment, simply notice the visual qualities of what you see: colors, line, shape, form, space, and texture.

(pause)

Now, take a deeper look. What parts of the image are your eyes most drawn to? What parts of the image did you quickly brush by or overlook?

(pause)

And now, use your imagination.

Imagine yourself in this piece. Where would you be and how would you interact with what surrounds you?

(pause)

Finally, observe your own emotions. How does this image make you feel?

(pause)

Remembrance of Baptism **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

With simple elements and simple acts, Jesus flipped the scripts of power to bring about new possibilities for God's love in the world. Before his betrayal and death, Jesus touched his followers and sealed their connection. Jesus taught us to wash one another's feet so that we might witness each other's goodness and be made clean. Through the waters of baptism, God claims us as God's own and marks the calling for our lives onto our bodies. Together, we will remember our baptisms.

Let us pray:

God who poured forth water, God who formed each one of us,
we give you thanks for the sacrament of Baptism.
Allow the cool drip of water on our bodies to bring us closer to you
so that we might live as your people,
with justice, kindness, and humility.

As we remember your promises to us,
renew in us a heart of compassion for others
and help us recognize your presence in all whom we meet. Amen.

Hymn No. 215** **"What Wondrous Love Is This"** ***Wondrous Love

Benediction **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

As we continue our journey forward, we invite you to reflect on the events of Good Friday (betrayal, lament, grief) and Holy Saturday (waiting, anticipation) in preparation for the resurrection hope of Easter.

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*Please stand in body or in spirit.
*The Invitation to Worship and Opening Prayer adapted from A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Pong Thiemmedh, song leader

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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

Friday, March 29

- **Good Friday – Office is closed**

Sunday, March 31

- **Easter Sunrise Service** – 7.30 am Mackey Patio
- **Easter Breakfast** – 8.30 – The Meeting Place
- **Easter Sunday Worship Service with Communion** – 10 am – Mackey Hall

- **Wooster Friends Meeting** – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place

Monday, April 1

- Office is closed
- Scouts – 6.30 pm – Mackey Hall

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.

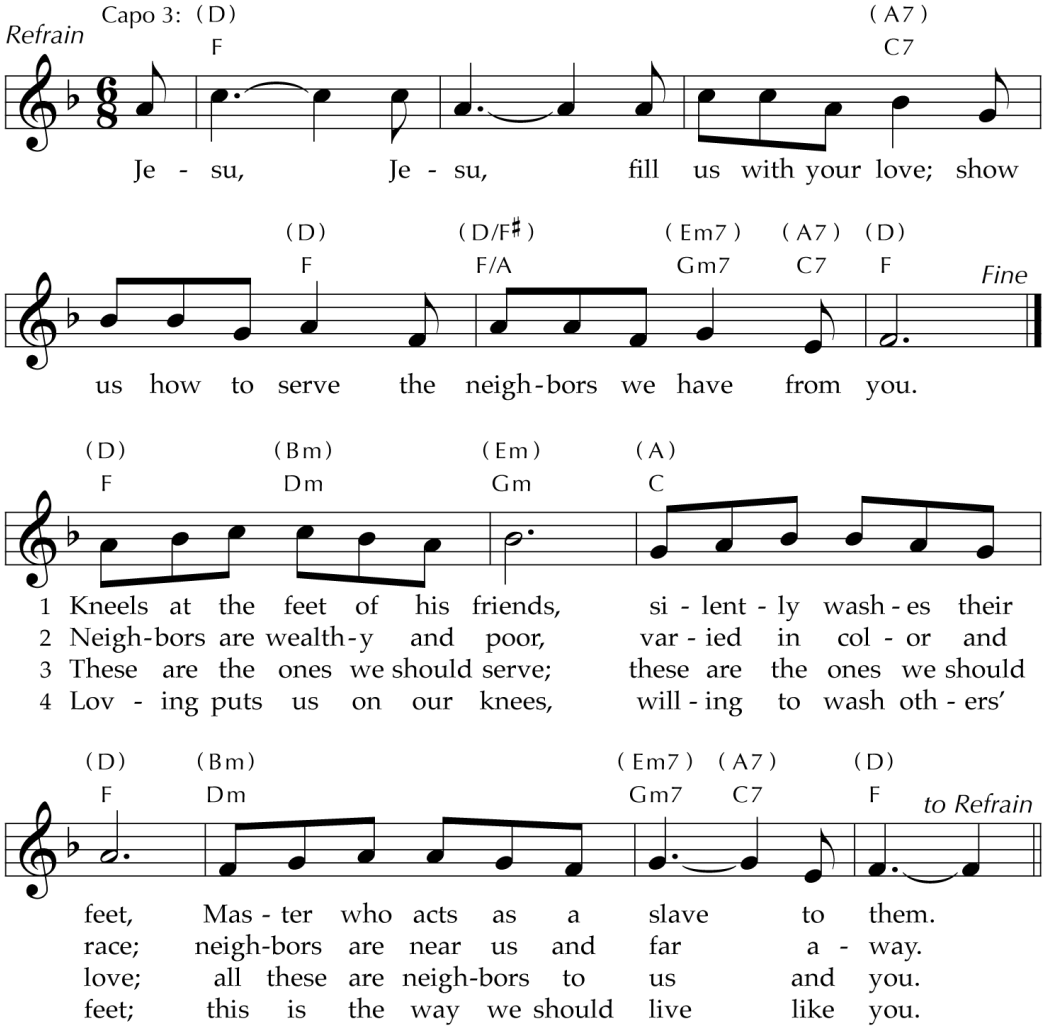
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(link to the WPC 150th Anniversary webpage: **https://wpcwoo.org/150)**

JESUS CHRIST: PASSION AND DEATH

203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
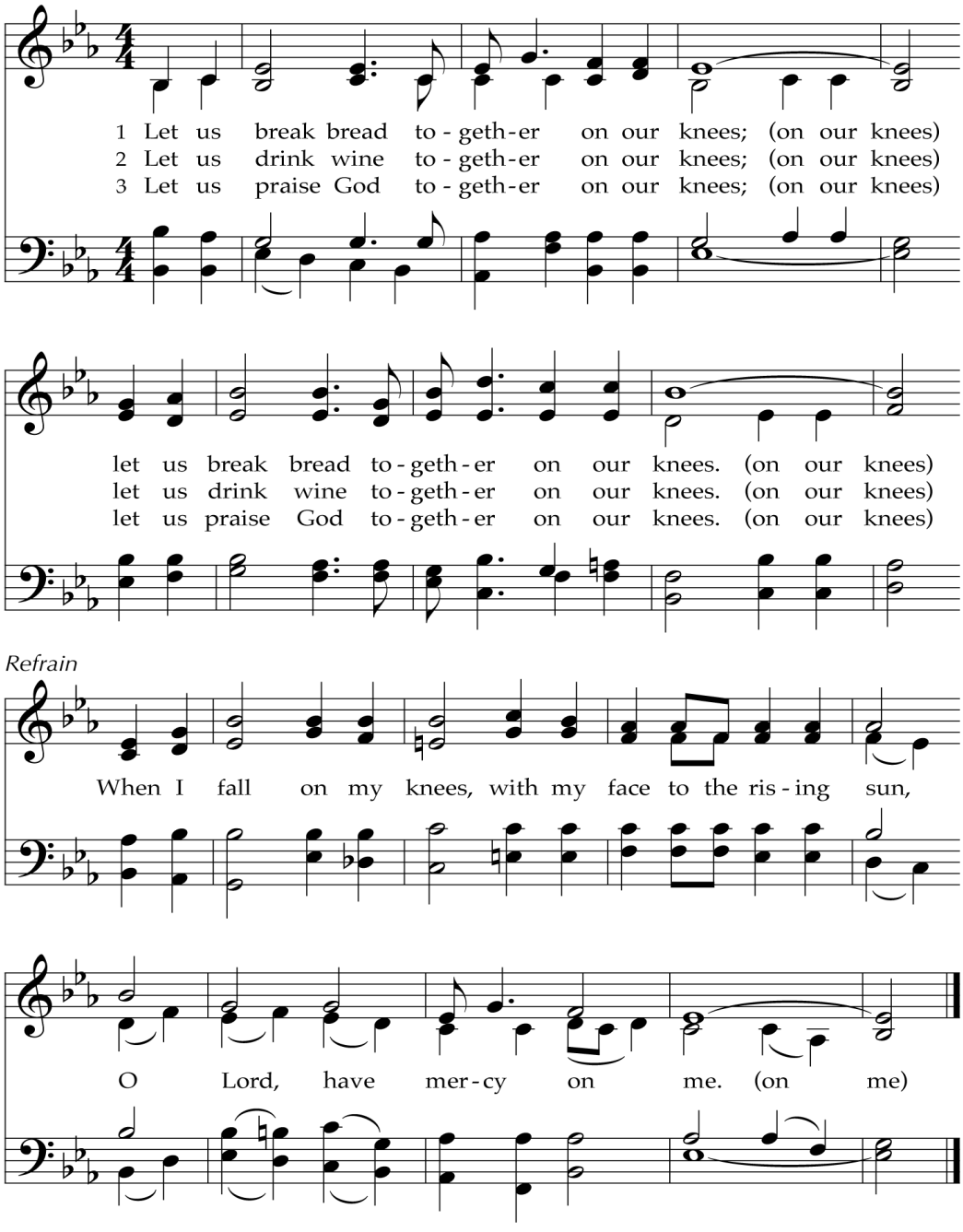


Considering that this text comes from a part of the world where Christianity is not the primary religion gives these simple but powerful words even more depth and meaning. The tune name recalls the district in the Northern Region of Ghana where this tune was collected.

TEXT: Tom Colvin, 1969, rev. 1997, alt.
MUSIC: Ghanaian folk melody; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1963; arr. Jane Marshall, 1982
Text and Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company
Music Arr. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

CHEREPONI
7.7.9 with refrain

Let Us Break Bread Together 525
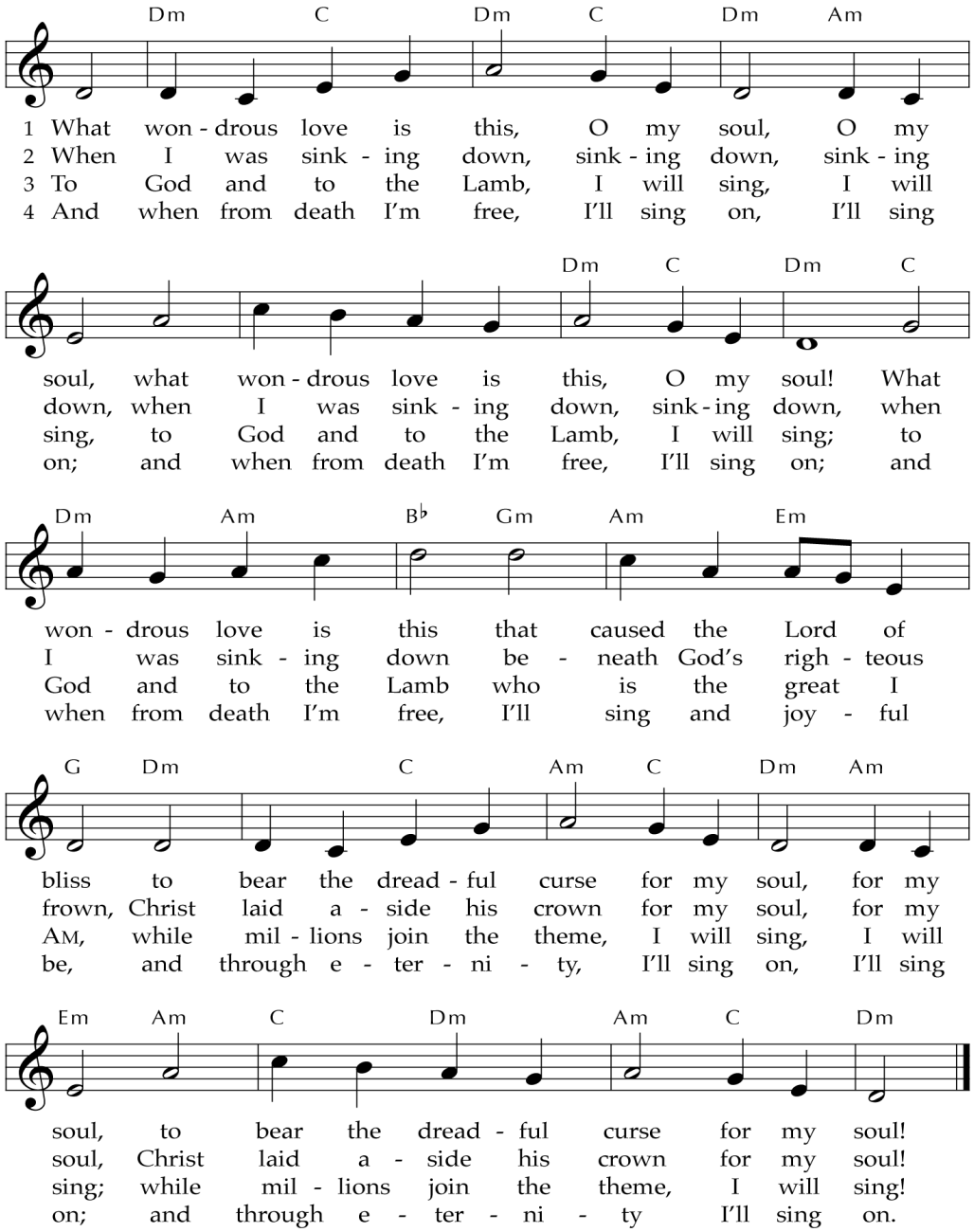


This African American spiritual quite possibly reflects the circumstances of slaves attending early morning communion services in colonial Anglican churches, but its combination of hope ("rising sun") and supplication ("Lord, have mercy") speaks to many worshipers' experience.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1988
Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

LET US BREAK BREAD
10.10 with refrain

What Wondrous Love Is This 215



With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."

TEXT: American folk hymn, c. 1811
MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony,* 1835; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1965
Music Harm. © 1965 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company)

WONDROUS LOVE
12.9.12.12.9

