Westminster
Presbyterian Church
353 E. Pine St., Wooster, OH. 44691
330-263-2398 / wpcwooster.org

April 24, 2022
2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER
EARTH DAY SUNDAY

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

Prelude "Sonatina in F Major" L. VAN BEETHOVEN

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

In the beginning, the Spirit of God moved over the waters,
and God said "Unbind creation and let her out!"
and God declared it to be Good.

God said, "let there be light" and called the light "Day" and the darkness "Night."
God spoke the word to call the land from the water,
pulling the Great Lakes down to the depths
and raising the Ohio rolling hills above the waters,
and in God's eyes they were Good.

God's word called to life the soybean and the milking cow,
the robin and the earthworm,
the honeybee and the coyote,
and God's heart saw them to be Good.

Then God spoke a final time,
making creatures who carry the divine image: us.
Forming humans by holy word, male and female and everybody in between,
to tend and steward all that God had made.

And God saw that it was all Very Good.
And God declared that it is all Very Good.

On the seventh day, God rested.
And on this seventh day,
we come to worship and remember our role as partners in creation.

***Opening Prayer** **Candy Relle**

Spirit of love
That flows against our flesh
Sets it trembling
Moves across it as across grass
Erasing every boundary that we accept
And swings the doors of our lives wide—
This is a prayer we sing: save our perishing earth!

Spirit that hears each one of us,
Hears all that is—
Inspire us now!

Our own pulse beats in every stranger's throat,
And also there within the flowered ground beneath our feet.
Teach us to listen!
May we hear it in water, in wood, and even in stone.
May we learn anew that
we are earth of this earth,
and we are bone of its bone.
This is the prayer we sing. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn No. 22** "God of the Sparrow" ROEDER

Call to Confession **Ferenc Relle**

Every week we cry out to God, admitting the ways in which we have fallen short in loving God, each other and our planet. We ask for God's saving grace and transformation because we trust in God's relentless love and abundant mercy for us.

So friends, let us join our voices in our prayer of confession, for there is still too much hurt within and around us.

Prayer of Confession **Ferenc Relle**

Gracious God,
We have forgotten who we are.

We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.
We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.
We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

We have sought only our own security.
We have exploited simply for our own ends.
We have distorted our knowledge and abused our power.

Now the land is barren
And the waters are poisoned, the air polluted.
Now the forests are dying
And creatures are disappearing and humans despairing.

We have forgotten who we are.
Forgive us, we pray.
Give us the gift of remembering and the strength to change.
In your name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response ” Glory to God, Giver of Life” (Printed Music at End) Text and Music: MARY-MARIE DEAUCLAIRE

Assurance of Forgiveness **Relle**

Do not fear, says God.
I have called you by name; you are mine.

I am doing a new thing within you. Now it springs forth!
By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Scripture Reading Psalm 8 – *The Voice Translation* **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

[1]O Eternal, our Lord,
Your majestic name is heard throughout the earth;
Your magnificent glory shines far above the skies.
[2]From the mouths *and souls* of infants and toddlers, *the most innocent,*
You have decreed power to stop Your adversaries
and quash those who seek revenge.

[3]When I gaze to the skies and meditate on Your creation—
on the moon, stars, *and all* You have made,
[4]I can’t help but wonder why You care about mortals—
specks of dust floating about the cosmos.

[5]But You placed the Son of Humanity just beneath God
and honored him like royalty, crowning him with glory and honor.
[6]You ordained him to govern the works of Your hands,
to nurture the offspring of Your divine imagination.

You placed everything *on earth* beneath his feet:

[7]All kinds of domesticated animals,
even the wild animals in the fields *and forests*,
[8]The birds of the sky and the fish of the sea,
all *the multitudes of living things* that travel the currents of the oceans.

[9]O Eternal, our Lord,
Your majestic name is heard throughout the earth.

Reflections **Joel Chupp**
Juli Douglass-Gillespie

***Hymn No. No. 713** "Touch the Earth Lightly" TENDERNESS

Receiving Diane and Joel Chupp as Members of Westminster Presbyterian Church

Presentation – Elder Candy Relle
Profession of Faith – Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

We believe in a God who can astound us—
a God who created the rolling hills of Ohio,
the stars on a summer night, and the grasslands of Siberia.
We believe in Jesus, whose example changes us—
an example of love for those on the fringes,
healing for the sick, and welcome for the lonely.
We believe that Jesus was abandoned by his friends,
wounded, mocked, and killed by the state.
And in a garden, three days later, we believe that life began again—
the stone was rolled back, as death lost its sting.

Ever since that day, we believe the Spirit has been inviting us into an expansive life—
a life not measured by wealth or accolades,
but a life full to the brim with joy,
overflowing with laughter, saturated in hope,
and decorated with good news.
Death has lost its sting.
We believe and are set free. Thanks be to God, amen.
Welcome

Hymn No. 14 "For the Beauty of the Earth" DIX
Verses 1, 2 & 4

Sharing of Joys and Concerns **Ferenc and Candy Relle**

Prayer of the People **Ferenc and Candy Relle**

We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ who taught us to pray together:

Eternal Spirit
Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all.
Loving God, in whom is heaven.
The hallowing of your name echoes through
the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever.
Amen.

*** Closing Hymn No. 36** "For the Fruit of All Creation" AR HYD Y NOS

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

Postlude Postlude on "Terra Beata" JASON PAYNE

The service continues with fellowship.



To continue to assure the safety of all, the offering plate is located 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 go on-line 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.

*Note: The Gathering Words were adapted from by Rev. David Huber and Kathy Bartilson, members of the Wisconsin Conference of UCC; the Opening Prayer from Barbara Deming; the Prayer of Confession from the U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program. The Lord's Prayer is from the New Zealand Prayer Book.

Music:	Guitar	Jim Bonk
	Piano	Mary-Marie Deauclaire
	Drum	Divine Gbagbo
	Piano	Bob Iams
	Organ	Ken Shafer
	Vocals	Pong Thiemmedh

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

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

Office Hours: 8:30 am–1:30 pm, Tuesday through Friday
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.

22 God of the Sparrow



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

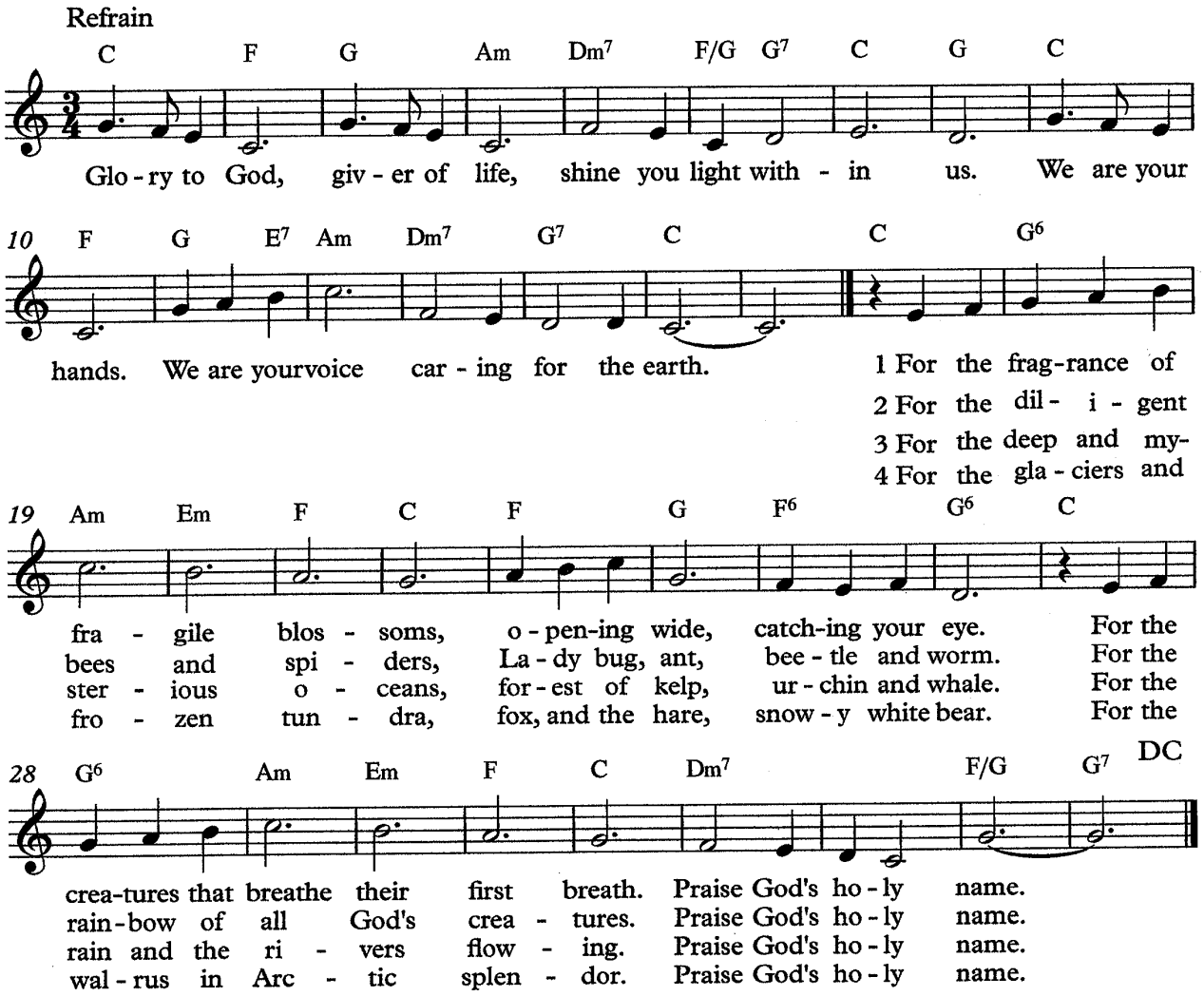
TEXT: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983
MUSIC: Carl F. Schalk, 1983
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House
Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

ROEDER
9.6.7.7

Refrain is sung at the beginning and end.

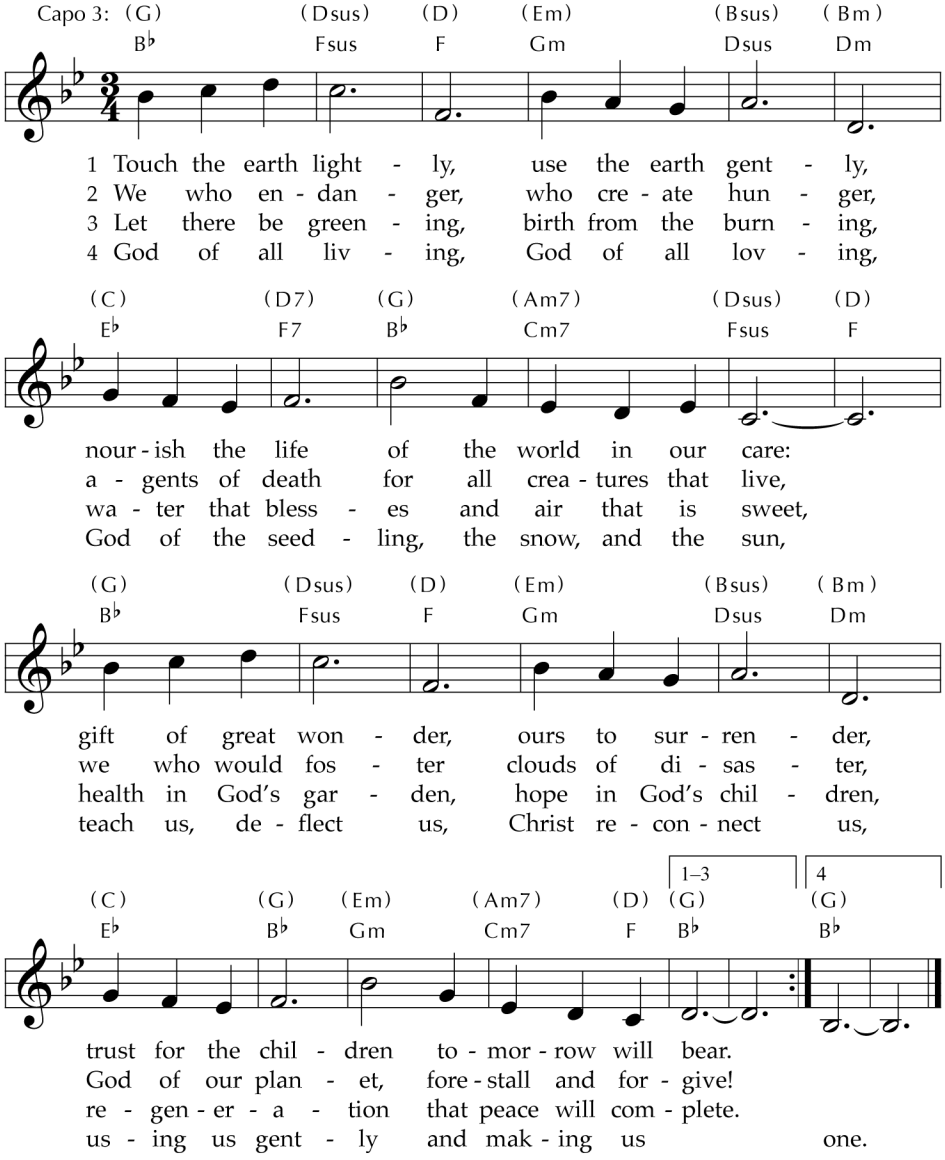
Glory to God, Giver of Life

Mary-Marie Deauclaire



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713 Touch the Earth Lightly



An Australian aboriginal saying opens this gentle hymn from New Zealand on the stewardship of creation. "Clouds of disaster" in the second stanza refers to the testing of nuclear devices then occurring in the Pacific Ocean, but the concern for all created things is timeless.

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1991
MUSIC: Colin Gibson, 1992
Text and Music © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

TENDERNESS
5.5.10.D

Verses 1, 2 and 4

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

For the Beauty of the Earth 14



In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

TEXT: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX
7.7.7.7.7.7

For the Fruit of All Creation 36



Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1970, alt.
MUSIC: Welsh melody, c. 1784
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company

AR HYD Y NOS
8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4