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

March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday
in Lent

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

Minute for Mission — **Shelley Peterson**

Prelude — **"Land of Seeking"** — ***Spencer***
LaJoye

Music/Lyrics

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

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

Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?
Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?
Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?
Have you ever wondered, *can these bones live?*
If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house. Hope lives here.
So let us come. Rest our weary bones.
Let us worship Holy God.

***Opening Prayer** — **Cheryl Weiss**

Let us pray…

God of life,
you overcome even the long shadow of death,
that we may live freely and fully in your way.
As Mary and Martha trusted the power of your presence,
we too call on your name and ask to see your face.

As Mary and Martha were honest about their grief and disappointment,
we too come to tell you our truth.
Walk with us to the place we have laid our grief,
and call us out into new life.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 286 **"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"** *Trentham*

Call to Confession **Dorothy Iams**

Friends, there is nothing that we have to keep hidden from God—not our anger, our grief, or the ways in which we have fallen short. In confession, we speak honestly and are met with grace. So let us not hold back. Let us bring our full selves to this prayer, knowing that God is already running to meet us. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession **Dorothy Iams**

Jesus of Nazareth,
We confess:
We forget that you know this feeling.
We forget that you, too, have wept.
We forget that you, too, have lost.
We forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb,
have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity.

Forgive us for all the times we place blame on you.
Forgive us for all the times we create distance, imagining that you could never feel what we feel.
Forgive us for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us.

Pour yourself into the cracks in our hearts. Bring these bones back to life.
Bring us closer to you. With gratitude we pray, amen.

Silent Confession

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

Assurance of Forgiveness **Dorothy Iams**

Friends, we could spend our whole life ignoring God,
pushing God away, or trying to solve the world's problems all on our own,
and God would still love us all the same.
So hear and believe this good news:

Even in our shortcomings, we are God's beloved.
God claims us. We are not alone.
Through God's grace we find renewal and wholeness.

Musical Offering **"Waltz" (from Opus 39)** ***Dmitry Kabalevsky***
Bob Iams, piano

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. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading **John 11:1-41**
(NIV Translation)

11 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister
Martha. 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on
the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love
is sick."

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that
God's Son may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.6 So
when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, 7 and then he said to his
disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

8 "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going
back?"

9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not
stumble, for they see by this world's light. 10 It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for
they have no light."

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

12 His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.”13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

14 So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

16 Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

24 Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

27 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

28 After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.”29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

37 But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

Sermon **Seeking: Can These Bones Live?** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 434 **“Restore in Us, O God”** ***Baylor***

Sharing of Joys and Concerns **Dorothy Iams**

Prayer of the People **Dorothy Iams**

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. 305** **"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"** ***Darwall's 148th

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

Postlude **"Fughetta on 'Ein Feste Burg'"** ***S. E. Saxton***

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The service continues with fellowship.

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*The opening prayer was adapted from the Rev. Teri Peterson – Bibleworm. All other prayers were adapted from the Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Bob Iams, piano
*Sunday Service Assistant/Treats – Barbara Tartir
*Sunday Flowers – Lemoine Pert



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.



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, March 26

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

Monday, March 27

- Troop 61 – 6 pm – Mackey Hall

Tuesday, March 28

- Personnel committee – 7 pm – The Lounge

Wednesday, March 29

- CAMO – 10 am – Orrville

Thursday, March 30

- Dance & Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place
- Lenten Study – 6 pm – The Lounge

Sunday, April 2

- Choir rehearsal – 9 am – The Meeting Place
- Palm/Passion Sunday and 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. Jim Henery
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola
Custodian Kara Akers

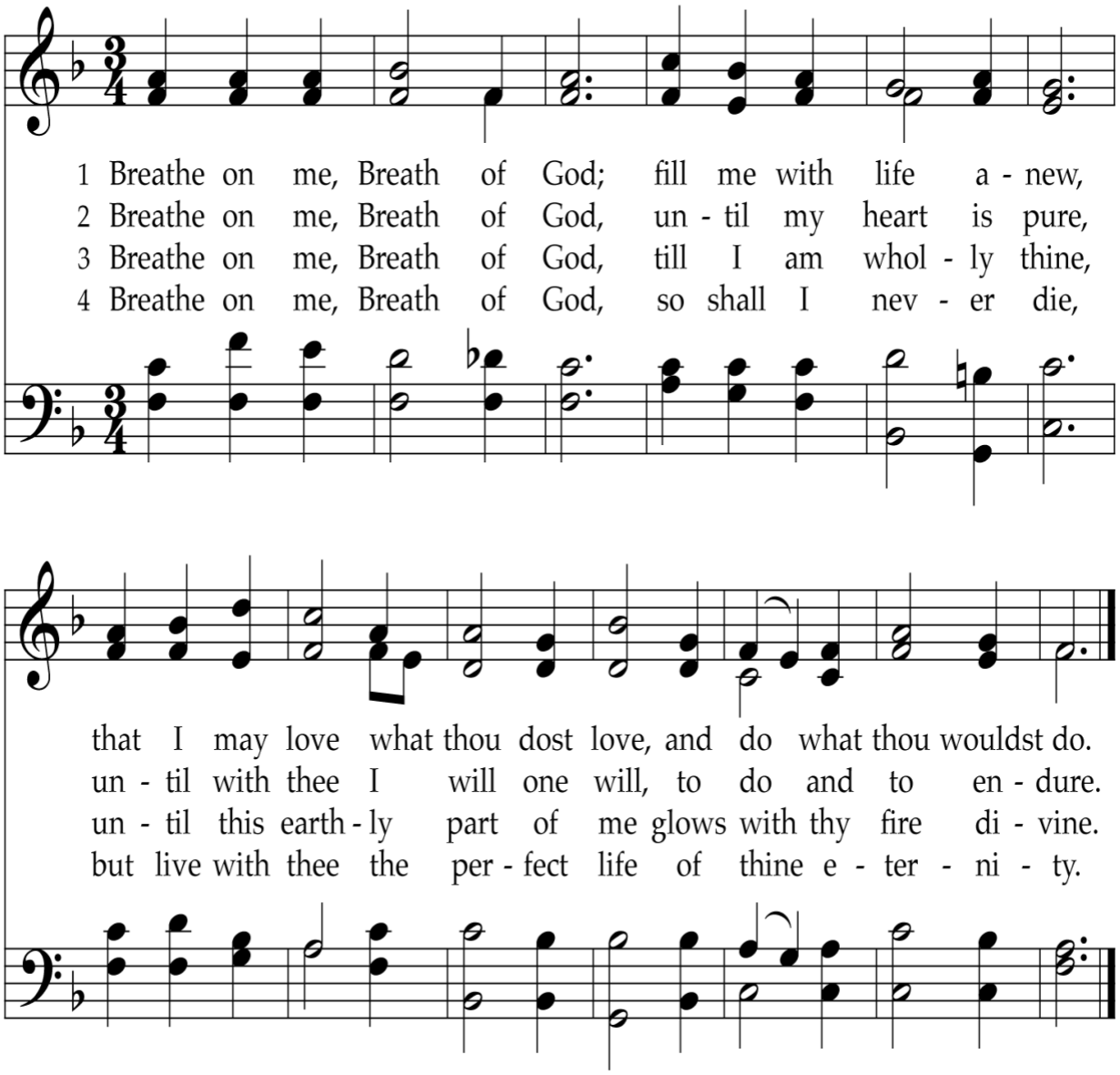
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

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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.


seeking:
Can these
bones live?

Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286



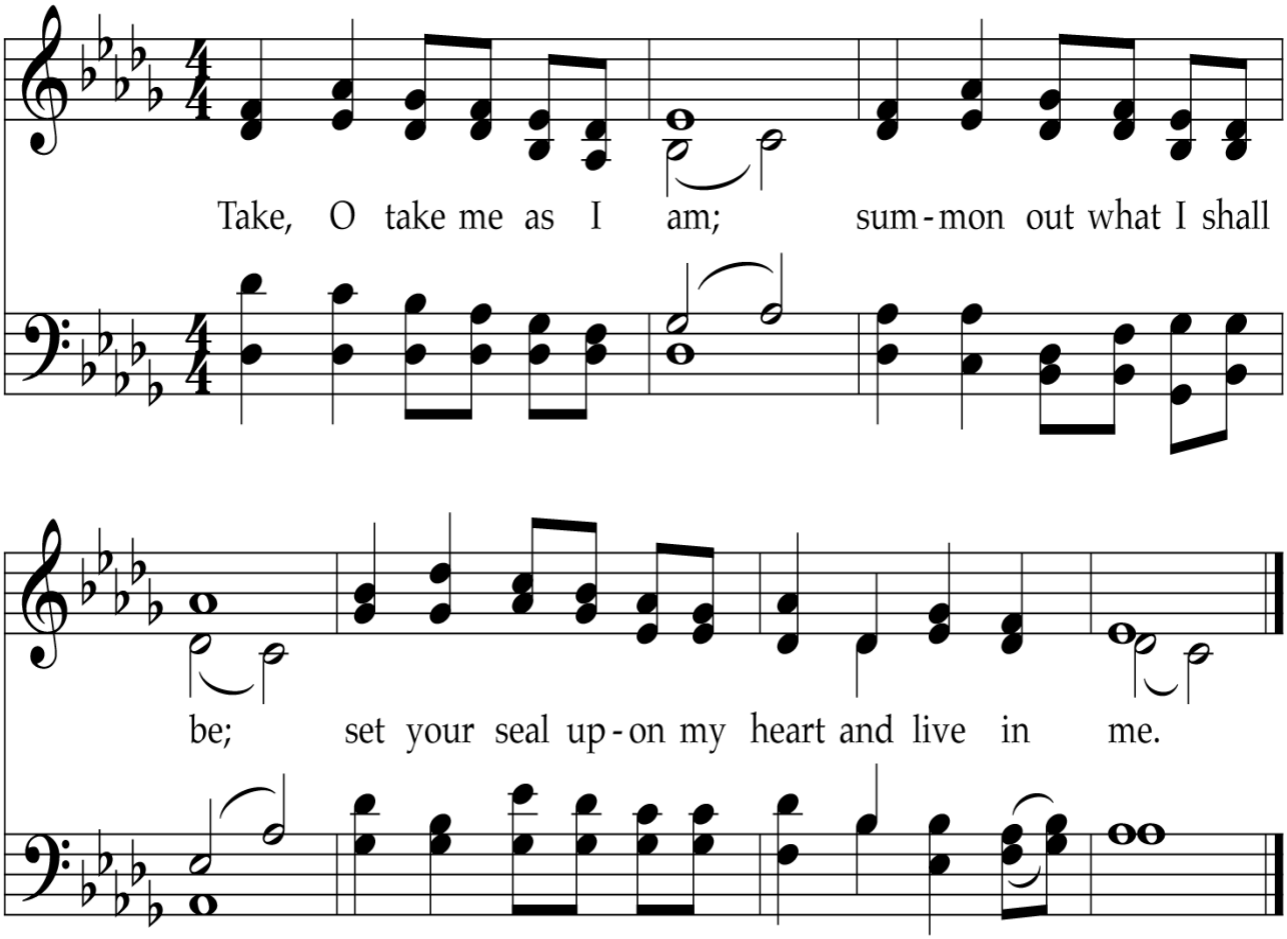
In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

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

TRENTHAM
SM

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

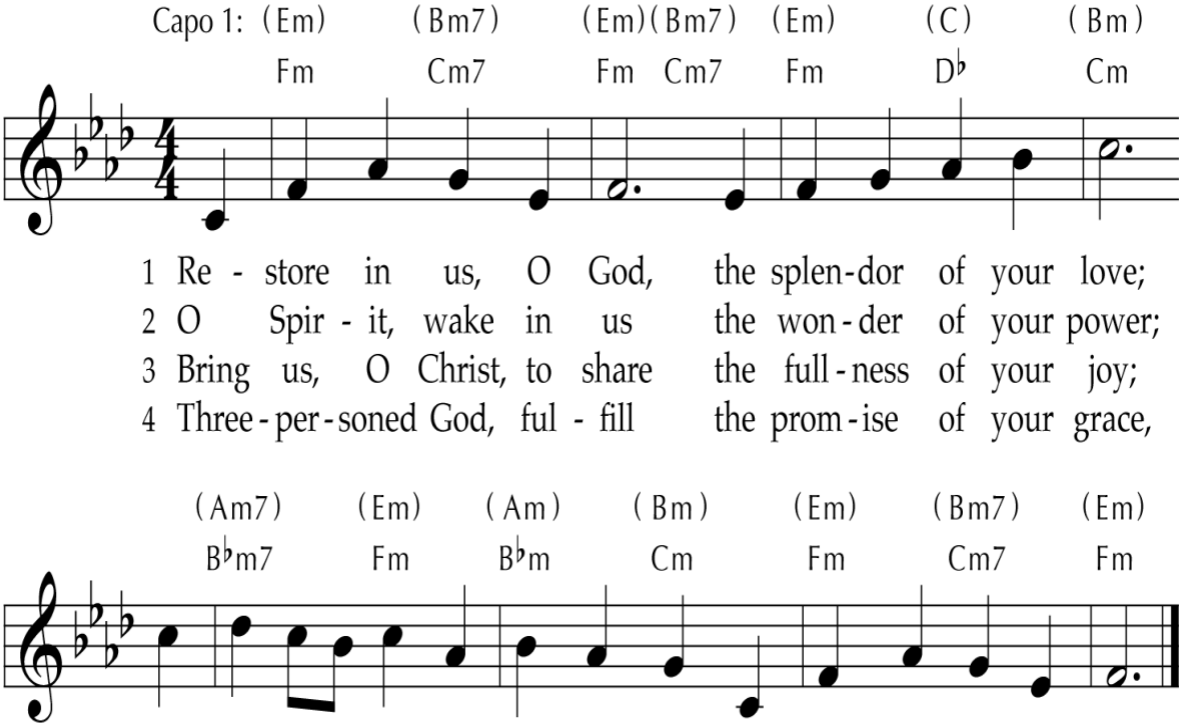
698 Take, O Take Me as I Am



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 TAKE ME AS I AM
Text and Music © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) 7.7.7.4

Restore in Us, O God 434



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love;
re - new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.

2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your power;
from fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flower.

3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy;
bap - tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.

4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace,
that we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.
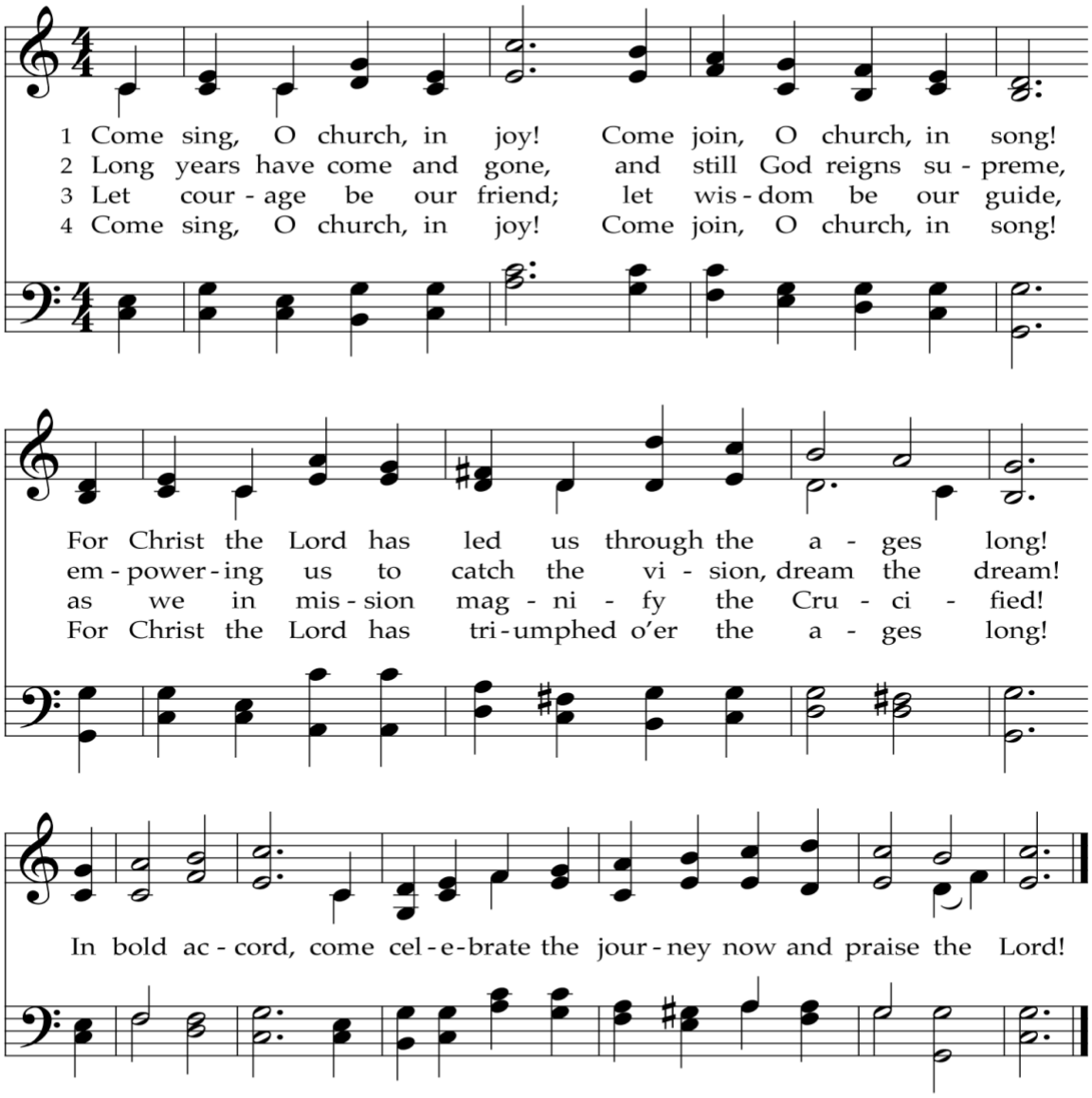
This text reflects the historic understanding of Lent as a time to prepare catechumens for Baptism and penitents for reconciliation at the Easter Vigil. The first three stanzas address one of the three divine Persons, while the fourth stanza implores the help of the full Trinity.

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1985
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company
Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company

BAYLOR
SM

THE CHURCH

305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!



This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988–1989 observance, which had the theme "Celebrate the Journey." The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.

TEXT: Brian Dill, 1988
MUSIC: John Darwall, 1770
Text © 1989 Brian Dill

DARWALL'S 148TH
6.6.6.6.8.8