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

February 26, 2023
First 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.

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

***Gathering Words** — **Candy Relle**

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

Listen!
There is hope to be found here.
Listen!
God calls you by name here.
Listen!
There is love that abides here.
This world is full of chatter, so may we do our best to listen.
God is speaking.
Let us worship.
Amen.

***Opening Prayer** — **Candy Relle**

Let us pray…

Holy God,
Our Creator, Friend, and Guide,
In a world full of noise, of chaos, of temptation,
Draw us near to you—

May we hear you speaking and singing,
may we witness you healing.

As we listen for water in the desert,
for the wind of the Spirit,
for the laughter of children,
for the sound of open doors,
may we hear your voice calling: "You are my beloved."
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 166 **"Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days"** ***St. Flavian***

Call to Confession **Ferenc Relle**

Friends, if you are seeking grace, this moment is for you.
If you are seeking growth, this moment is for you.
If you are seeking honesty, this moment is for you.

In the prayer of confession, we admit to ourselves and to God that we do not have it all figured out. And in that vulnerability, we are surrounded by God's grace. So let us pray together, using the prayer of confession printed in your bulletin (or visible on your screen). Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession **Ferenc Relle**

Holy God, too often we treat your Word like
a radio station—something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient.
Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications.
In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice.
Forgive us for failing to listen.
Forgive us for getting caught in distractions.
Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like.
Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you.
With earnest hearts we pray, amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 471 **"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"** ***Hear My Prayer/Taizé***

(first verse sung multiple times)

Assurance of Forgiveness **Ferenc Relle**

Friends, even when we tune God out,
even when we prioritize other voices,
even when we do all the talking and fail to listen, we are *still* held by God.
Our sins are forgiven. Nothing could ever separate us from God's love.
So with joy in our hearts, please repeat after me:

I am loved!
I am loved!
I am held in grace!
I am held in grace!
I belong to God.
I belong to God.
Amen.

Musical Offering **"Have Thine Own Way"** ***A. Pollard & G. Stebbins***
"They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love" ***P. Scholtes***
Dave Schmidt, guitar

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**

First Scripture Reading **Matthew 4:1-11** **Ferenc Relle**
(New Revised Standard Version)

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. **2** He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." **4** But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels

concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "
8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, 9 and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' " 11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Second Scripture Reading **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**
(New Revised Standard Version)

2 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, 5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Sermon **Seeking: Who Will We Listen To?** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 451 **"Open My Eyes, That I May See"** ***Open My Eyes***

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

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

We ask these things 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. 434** **"Restore in Us, O God"** ***Baylor

***Benediction** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Postlude **"Recessional on 'Lobe den Herren' "** ***arr. D. R. Edwards***

•••••

*The prayers were adapted from the Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Organ – Tom Shaw; Dave Schmidt, guitar
*Sunday Service Assistant/Treats – Candy and Ferenc Relle
*Flowers – Barbara Tartir

The service continues with fellowship.



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.

****

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 26

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

Monday, February 27

- Troop 61 – 6 pm – Mackey Hall

Thursday, March 2

- Dance & Exercise – 8:30 am – The Meeting Place
- Lenten Study – 6 pm – The Lounge

Sunday, March 5

- Worship Service – 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

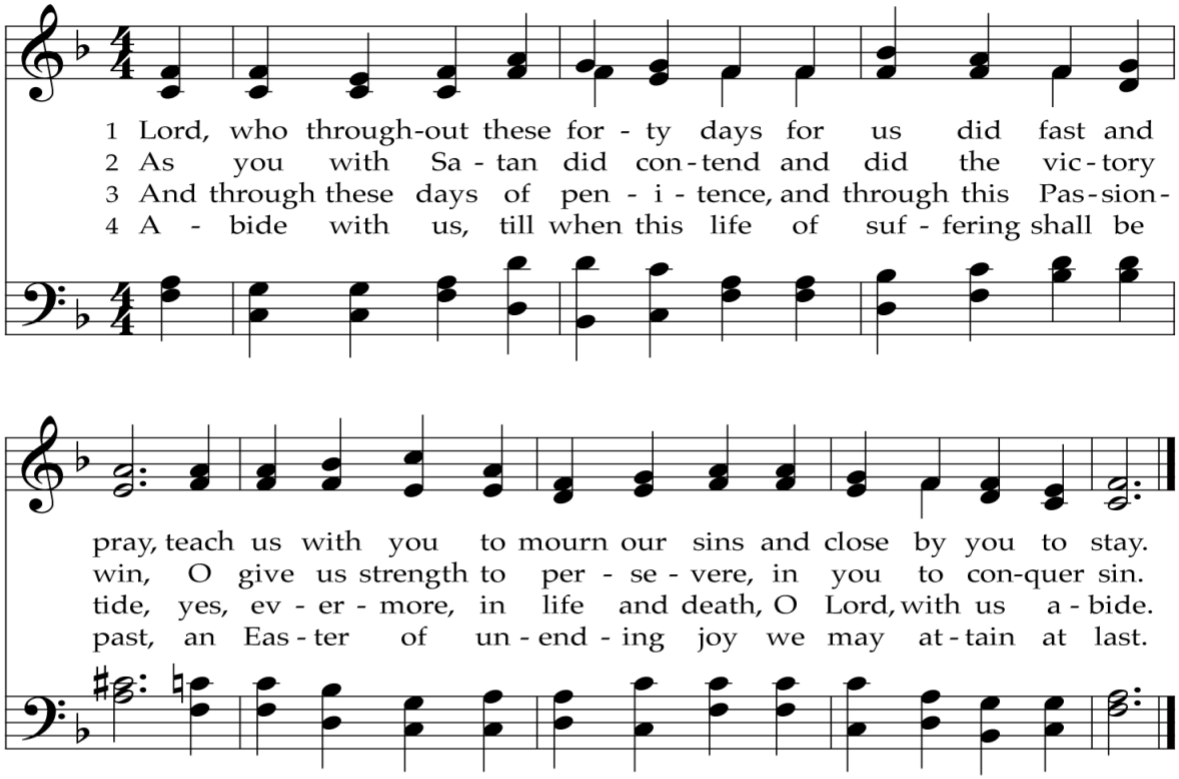
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

wpcwooster@gmail.com: 330.263.2398
facebook.com/wpcwooster | 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.



Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days 166



Like many of this author's hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

TEXT: Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873, alt.
MUSIC: Day's *Psalter,* 1562

ST. FLAVIAN
CM

O Lord, Hear My Prayer 471

The Lord Is My Song



This chant from the Taizé Community in France is provided with two sets of words, either of which can be used as best suits the occasion. The first text is based on Psalm 102:1–2, and the second is an amalgam of phrases drawn from Psalms 118:14, 25:5, 36:9, and John 4:14.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1982, 1991
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982
Text and Music © 1982 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

Open My Eyes, That I May See 451

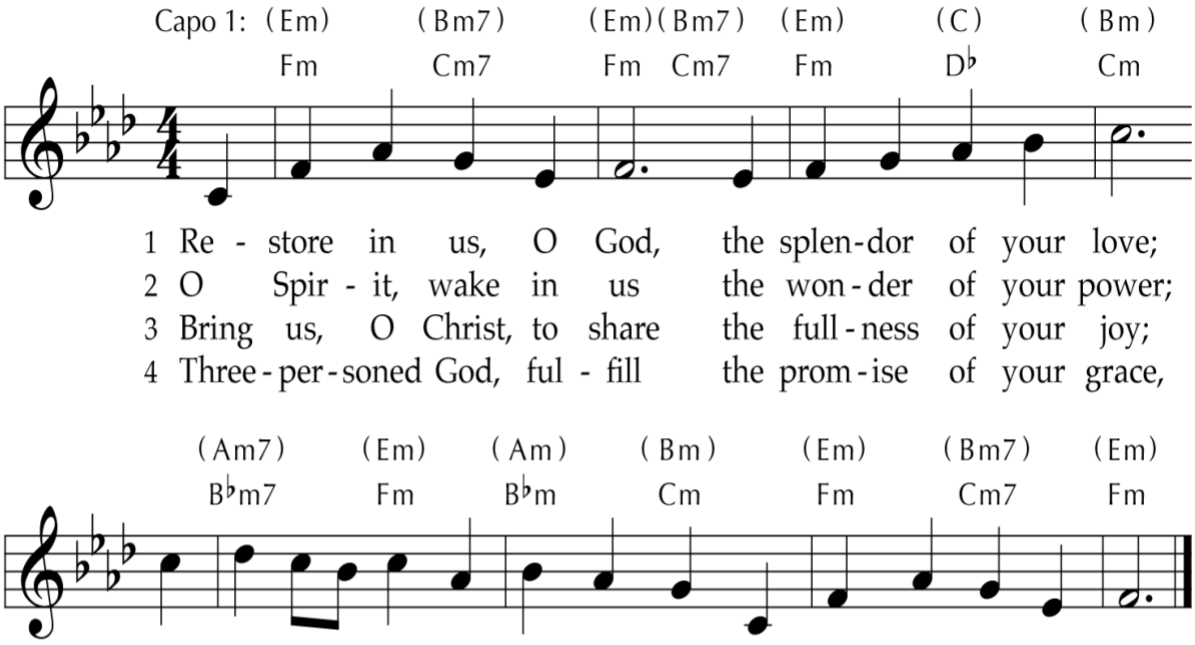


The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

TEXT and MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895

OPEN MY EYES
8.8.9.8.8.8.8.4

Restore in Us, O God 434



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 BAYLOR
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1985 SM
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company
Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company