



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • 7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME February 23, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Variations on "The Gift of Love," Variation II
Marty Franklin

Janet Linker

Words of Welcome

Rev. Amanda Horan

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

Mallory Cockrell

One: Take delight in the Lord,
who satisfies the desires of your heart.

**Many: Commit your way to the Lord
and trust in God's actions.**

One: Be still before the Lord
and wait patiently for God.

**All: Let us worship the Lord, who is our salvation
and our refuge in times of trouble.**

***Hymn (#399, sing 3x)**

God Welcomes All

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways or trusted your promises. We love only those who love us; we show kindness only to those who are kind to us; we give only when we expect to receive. Forgive us, Lord. Fill our hearts with your selfless love. Change our lives by your matchless grace. These things we pray through Christ our Savior. (Silence)

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: Children of the Most High God, let's declare the Good News:

**All: Through Jesus Christ our Lord we have received grace in good measure—
spilling out and running over.**

One: So we go to live as Christ commands:

**All: Be merciful, as God is merciful; do not judge, and you will not be judged;
but forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.
Amen.**

***Sharing a Sign of Christ's Peace**

***Congregational Response (#582, v. 1)**

Glory to God,

Whose Goodness Shines on Me

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Many: Thanks be to God.**)*

Anthem

Sarah Privette

Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 6:27-38

*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Many: Thanks be to God.**)*



WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith**

from the Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

***Hymn (See Insert)**

The Greatest Commandment

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

Variations on "The Gift of Love," Variation IV

Janet Linker

*Congregational Response (#607, Alt. Tune #606)

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication

One: Holy God,

Many: **you have given us land in which to grow and thrive, food for survival and pleasure, air and water, fire and cold.**

One: Make our thanksgiving bloom forth into the lives of others

All: **in the name of the one who gave everything for us. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Hymn (#300)

We Are One in the Spirit

*Charge & Benediction

*Postlude

Variations on "The Gift of Love," Variation VII

Janet Linker

***Please rise, in body or spirit.**



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God Welcomes All

399

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of simple chords and single notes. The lyrics are: 'God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends; God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.' The score ends with a double bar line.

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008

MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008

Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

THEMBA AMEN

4.4.9

582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B^b F B^b F B^b F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B^b E^b B^b Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Paul Zach

Transcribed by
Owen Stroud

PART I sing 3X

3

G Am

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind, and

3

$\frac{C}{B}$ C D

love your neigh - bor as your - self.

PART II sing 3X

5

G Am $\frac{C}{B}$ C D

Let us be known, let us be known by the way we love.

PART III

9

G Am $\frac{C}{B}$ C D

Love, love, love, the great - est com-mand-ment is

13

$\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ Em C D

love, love, love, the great - est com-mand-ment is

17

C D Em Am D G

love, love, love, the great-est com-mand-ment is love.

607

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple

The first line of the musical score is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the staff.

TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551
Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;

The second line of the musical score continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are written below the staff.

praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

The third line of the musical score concludes the doxology. The lyrics are written below the staff.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)

Fm Cm Fm



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)

Bbm Fm



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)

Bbm Fm



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)

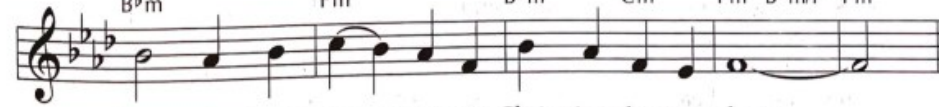
Db Fm



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)

Bbm Fm Bbm Cm Fm Bbm/F Fm



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.