



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT March 9, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Variations I and II on ST FLAVIAN
Marty Franklin

Anthony Giamanco

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

Many: The journey begins in the wilderness.

One: We follow the way of Jesus,
who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

Many: Like Jesus, we are not alone.

The Holy Spirit is with us. God's Word is on our lips.

One: Our call is to trust in God alone, to do God's will in all things.

**All: For God leads us not only into the wilderness,
but also through the wilderness.**

***Hymn (#166)**

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Amanda Horan

***Prayer of Confession**

O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you. We fall to temptation; we are swayed by false words; we speak false words of our own. We choose our ease and comfort over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Forgive us, we pray. Do not let us be put to shame, O God. Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. (Silence)

***Sung Reflection (#576, sing 2x followed by silence)**

Lord, Have Mercy

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy on us.

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: Scripture declares, The Lord is generous to all who call on God's name.
Friends, let us declare the good news:

**Many: God does not turn away from us,
but desires to bring us into the glorious freedom offered in Jesus Christ.**

One: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

***Congregational Response (#447)**

We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

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

Anthem

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

arr. John Leavitt

Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 4:1-13

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



Sermon

In the Wilderness

Rev. R.C. Griffin

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn (#165)**

The Glory of These Forty Days

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

Offertory on ST FLAVIAN

arr. Andrew Tessman

***Congregational Response (#698)**

Take, O Take Me as I Am

*Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

***Responsive Prayer of Dedication**

One: Gracious and Generous God,
we are amazed by the good gifts you bestow in abundance.

**Many: Thank you for food that sustains us on our journey.
Thank you for the company of saints to whom we are joined.
Thank you for giving us your work to do on earth.**

One: We offer back to you a portion of all that we have received.

**All: We set down our baskets in celebration of your greatest gift,
Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#783)**

When We Are Tested

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Variations III and IV on ST FLAVIAN

Anthony Giamanco

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



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Lord, Who throughout These 166 Forty Days



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be




pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
past, an Eas-ter of un - end - ing joy we may at-tain at last.



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.

576

Lord, Have Mercy



Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: Swee Hong Lim, 1990

Music © 1990 Swee Hong Lim (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBCMusik)

SINGAPURA

447

We Are Forgiven

G Am D7 Gsus G C
 We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
 G Am7 Dsus D G Am
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.
 D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G
 We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
 Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
 10.8.10.8

165 The Glory of These Forty Days

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
 4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -

cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all
 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride-groom's
 sumed in fast and prayer with you; our spir - its strength-en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Appropriate for singing at any time during Lent, this stately text connects Jesus' wilderness fast with the solitary testing of other prophetic souls: Moses, Elijah, Daniel, and John the Baptist. This sturdy 16th-century chorale melody formed the basis of Bach's *Cantata 126*.

TEXT: Gregory the Great, 6th cent.; trans. Maurice F. Boll, 1906, alt.
 MUSIC: Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1725

ERHALT UNS, HERR
 LM

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

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).

When We Are Tested

783

Capo 2: (Dm) Em (Am) Bm (Dm) Em (Am) Bm

1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,

(Em) F#m (B7) C#7 (Em) F#m (Dsus) (D) Esus E

fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the power to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,

(G) A (D) E (Em7) F#m7 (F) G

nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,

(Am6) Bm6 (C) D (Dm) Em (Am) (E) Bm F#

food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Although the Temptation of Christ is mentioned in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew 4:1–11 / Mark 1:12–13 / Luke 4:1–13), this hymn is based on the Lukan version. It is notable that each stanza begins “when,” not “if”; temptation is not an optional feature of the spiritual life.