



# NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

## A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT April 6, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.

**Prelude**

*Lenten Prelude*  
Marty Franklin

Dennis Janzer

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. R.C. Griffin

### **WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE**

#### **Call to Worship**

One: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

**Many: we were like those who dreamed.**

One: Our mouths were filled with laughter,

**Many: our tongues with songs of joy.**

One: It was said among the nations,

**Many: The Lord has done great things for us.**

One: The Lord has done great things for us!

**All: We are filled with joy! So let us worship God!**

**\*Hymn (#74)**

*When God Restored Our Common Life (Psalm 126)*

### **WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE**

**\*Call to Confession**

Rev. Amanda Horan

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Ever-Present God, you offer us restoration and wholeness, yet we resist you. We reduce the purpose of this life to the amount of stuff we can retain, and we disregard the damage done to our planet, our neighbors, and to ourselves in the process. We confess that we would rather remain as we are than risk the change that results from your presence in our lives. In this season of Lent, help us to realize just how much we depend on one another. Guide us to reorient our lives towards your goodness and your joy. And as you do, we ask that you renew us, restore us, and remain with us, as you always have.

**\*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: The Lord has done great things for us!

Many: **Through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ,  
We are renewed and we are made whole.**

One: Siblings in Christ, know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

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**

Psalm 126

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

**Anthem**

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Arr. Benjamin Harlan

**Second Scripture Lesson**

John 12:1-8

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

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*from a 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 (#161)**

*Woman in the Night*

**Call to Generosity**

**Offertory**

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Anthony Giamanco

**\*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.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

One: God of all gifts,  
we are grateful for the many ways you continue to provide for us.

All: As we offer a portion of these gifts today, we ask that you might receive them and transform them. Allow these gifts to become acts of restoration and hope, here in this community and beyond. So that all of your children might live into the abundance and the joy that you offer us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

\*Communion of the People

## WE DEPART TO SERVE

\*Hymn (#201)

*A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar*

\*Charge & Benediction

\*Choral Benediction

\*Postlude

*Fantasie in D Minor*

Johann Krieger

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

### Annual Meeting of the Congregation (Part 2)

The Session of North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church has scheduled the Annual Meeting of the Congregation (Part 2) for today (Sunday, April 6) after our 11:00am worship service (approx. 12:00pm). This hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) is for the purpose of electing officers and approving the sale of a land parcel.



Scan for bulletin info,  
news, and more!

# When God Restored Our Common Life

(Psalm 126)

74

1 When God re - stored our com - mon life, our hope, our lib - er -  
 2 We went forth weep - ing, sow - ing seeds in hard, un - yield - ing  
 3 Great lib - er - at - ing God, we pray for all who are op -

ty, at first it seemed a pass - ing dream, a  
 soil; with laugh - ing hearts we car - ry home the  
 pressed. May those who long for what is right with

wak - ing fan - ta - sy; a shock of joy swept  
 fruit of all our toil. We praise the One who  
 jus - tice now be blest. We pray for those who

o - ver us, for we had wept so long; the  
 gave the growth, with voic - es full and strong. The  
 mourn this day, and all who suf - fer wrong; may

seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.  
 seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.  
 seeds they wa - ter now with tears spring up in - to a song.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This paraphrase brings Psalm 126 to life in two ways: by turning the "they" of the final verses of the psalm to "we," and by adding a prayer for all who still wait for release from oppression. The shape note tune provides just the right balance of gratitude and urgency.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1981

MUSIC: U.S.A. folk melody, Lewis's *Beauties of Harmony*, 1828; harm. Erik Routley, 1976

Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music Harm. © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

RESIGNATION

CMD

(alternate harmonization, 803)

(alternate tune: NOEL)

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 GBGMusik)

SINGAPORE

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

## Woman in the Night



1 Wom-an in the night, spent from giv - ing birth,  
 2 Wom-an at the well, ques - tion the Mes - siah;  
 3 Wom-an in the house, nur - tured to be meek,  
 4 Wom-en on the hill, stand when men have fled;



guard our pre - cious light; peace is on the earth.  
 find your friends and tell: drink your heart's de - sire!  
 leave your sec - ond place, lis - ten, think, and speak!  
 Christ needs lov - ing still, though your hope is dead.



Wom-an in the crowd, creep - ing up be - hind,  
 Wom-an at the feast, let the righ - teous stare;  
 Wom-en on the road, from your sick - ness freed,  
 Wom-en in the dawn, care and spic - es bring,



touch - ing is al - lowed: seek and you will find!  
 come and go in peace; love him with your hair!  
 wit - ness and pro - vide, join - ing word and deed:  
 ear - li - est to mourn, ear - li - est to sing!



Come and join the song, wom - en, chil - dren, men.



Je - sus makes us free to live a - gain!

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Beginning with a reference to Mary giving birth to Jesus, this text describes a series of women who had important encounters with his life, ministry, death, and resurrection. The dancelike refrain celebrates how their experiences reveal that the Good News is for all people.

# 698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a half note 'Take,' followed by a quarter note 'O', then a half note 'take me as I', and ends with a half note 'am;'. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a half-note pattern in the left hand. The second system continues the vocal line with a half note 'sum-mon out what I shall', followed by a half note 'be;', then a half note 'set your seal up-on my heart and live in', and ends with a half note 'me.'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a half-note pattern in the left hand.

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).

# 201 A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

1 A proph-et - wom - an broke a jar, by Love's di - vine ap -  
 2 A faith - ful wom - an left a tomb by Love's di - vine com -  
 3 Though wom - an - wis - dom, wom - an - truth, for cen - tu - ries were  
 4 The Spir - it knows; the Spir - it calls, by Love's di - vine or -

point - ing. With rare per - fume she filled the room, pre -  
 mis - sion. She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, a -  
 hid - den, un - sung, un - writ - ten, and un - heard, de -  
 dain - ing, the friends we need, to serve and lead, their

sid - ing and a - noint - ing. A proph-et - wom - an broke a jar,  
 ris - ing from sub - mis - sion. A faith - ful wom - an left a tomb,  
 rid - ed and for - bid - den, the Spir - it's breath, the Spir - it's fire,  
 powers and gifts un - chain - ing. The Spir - it knows; the Spir - it calls,

the sneers of scorn de - fy - ing. With rare per - fume she  
 with res - ur - rec - tion gos - pel. She saw; she heard; she  
 on free and slave de - scend - ing, can tum - ble our di -  
 from wom - en, men, and chil - dren, the friends we need, to

This text seeks to reverse the neglected witness of biblical women by celebrating the woman who washed Jesus' feet (unnamed in Matthew 26:6-13/ Mark 14:3-9/ Luke 7:36-50; Mary of Bethany in John 12:1-8) and Mary Magdalene (John 20:1-18; Matthew 28:1-10/ Mark 16:1-7/ Luke 24:10).