



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 11, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Toccata on "The Strife is Over"
Marty Franklin

Geoffrey Staton

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

Polly E. Pruitt

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

One: Blessing and honor are yours, O God!

All: Glory to God forever. Alleluia!

***Hymn (#65)**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we have followed the desires of our own hearts and neglected the needs of our neighbors. Forgive our hard and selfish ways. Turn us to Christ and Christ's righteous path. Guide our steps in mission and ministry. (Silence)

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: God's mercy overflows as a healing spring to cleanse us of our offenses.

**All: Therefore, we know that we are forgiven
and we have received new life in Christ.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.**

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

***Congregational Response (#240 refrain, sing 2x)** *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson John 10:22-30
*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Many: Thanks be to God.**)*

Anthem *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Arr. Jack Shrader

Second Scripture Lesson Acts 9:36-43
*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Many: Thanks be to God.**)*

Sermon Please Come Rev. R.C. Griffin

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith** from a *Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of

the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

***Hymn (#324)**

For All the Faithful Women

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Polly E. Pruitt

Offertory

Meditation on "Brother James' Air"

Gordon King

***Congregational Response (#607, alt. tune #15)**

Praise God,

from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore.

Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication**

One: Risen Savior,
responding to your love and grace,
we offer our gifts of time, talent, and service.

All: **May our offerings feed the hungry, cloth the poor, quench the thirsty,
and shelter the vulnerable. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#250)**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Postludium on "Jesus Shall Reign"

Dennis R. Johnson

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

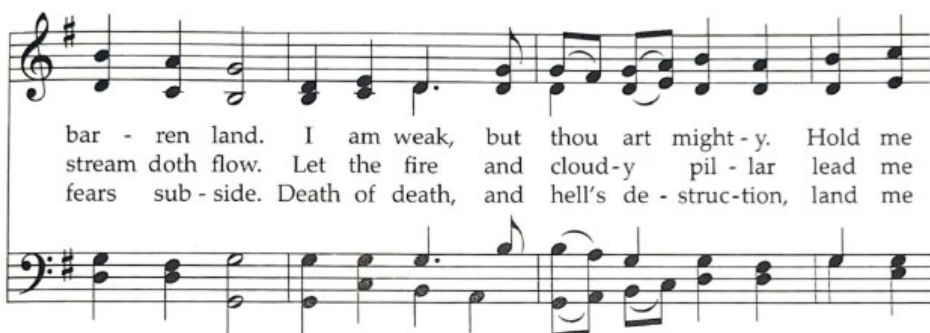


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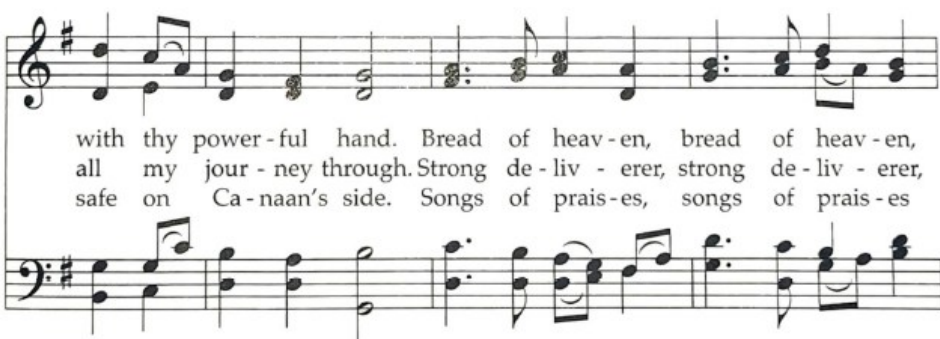
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

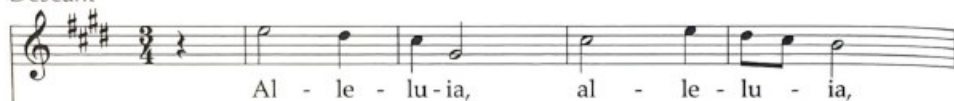


feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Descant



- 1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
- 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
- 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
- 4 Come let us praise the liv - ing God,



Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
Now we shall live for - ev - er.
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.



This text and tune were created together in the context of an ecumenical, charismatic, missionary Christian community in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Their energy and emphasis center in the opening and closing refrain's "Alleluia"—the essential Easter word of proclamation.

TEXT: Donald Fishel, 1971

MUSIC: Donald Fishel, 1971; arr. Betty Pulkingham and Donald Fishel, 1979
Text and Music © 1973 International Liturgy Publications

ALLELUIA NO. 1
8.8 with refrain

324 For All the Faithful Women

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C)
 Eb Cm7 Ab Bb Eb

1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in
 2 We praise your name for Mir - iam, who sang tri -
 3 We sing of bus - y Mar - tha, who toiled with
 4 Lord, hear our praise of Dor - cas, who served the

(G) (C) (Am7) (Dm) (G)
 Bb Eb Cm7 Fm Bb

days of old, to you shall thanks be giv - en; to
 um - phant - ly while Pha - raoh's vaunt - ed ar - my lay
 pot and pan while Mar - y sat in si - lence to
 sick and poor. Her hands were cups of kind - ness, her

(C) (G7) (C) (Am)
 Eb Bb7 Eb Cm

all, their sto - ry told. They served with strength and
 drowned be - neath the sea; for Ruth, who left her
 hear the word a - gain. We praise the oth - er
 heart an o - pen door. O God, for saints and

(D) (G) (F) (G) (C)
 F Bb Ab Bb Eb

glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave. To you their
 home - land and ven - tured forth in faith, who pledged to
 Mar - y, who has - tened to the tomb and found her
 ser - vants, our fer - vent prayer we raise, that, faith - ful

(Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
 Cm7 Ab Bb Fm Bb Eb

lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your power to save.
 serve and wor - ship Na - o - mi's God till death.
 Lord a - ris - en, dis - pel - ling doubt and gloom.
 in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Created to honor the tenth anniversary of the first ordination of a woman in the Lutheran Church in America, this text celebrates representative women of the Bible: Miriam and Ruth from Hebrew Scripture, Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene from the gospels, and Dorcas from Acts.

607

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

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

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

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 system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, and the bass staff continues with harmonic support.

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

The third system concludes the doxology. The treble staff ends with a final cadence, and the bass staff provides a concluding accompaniment.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
 Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.