



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 18, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Verso in d Minor
Marty Franklin

Domenico Zipoli

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: Alleluia! Christ is alive! Let all the people praise him!

All: Let all creation sing with joy! Alleluia!

***Hymn (#756)**

O God of Every Nation

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of mercy and grace, your command to love one another across all differences opens us to new horizons, yet we often respond with fear and judgment that hinders your goal for humanity. Forgive our sins, we pray, and give us a true repentance that leads to life for all creation. We pray in Jesus' name. (Silence)

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: God's promises are trustworthy and true:

Many: Our sins are forgiven!

One: May we be at peace to serve the Lord,
and may we always be known by our love.

All: 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 Revelation 21:1-6
*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Many: Thanks be to God.**)*

Anthem *"Be the Light of Christ"* Wes Cameron

Second Scripture Lesson Acts 11:1-18
*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Many: Thanks be to God.**)*

Sermon The In-Crowd Rev. R.C. Griffin

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith** adapted from the *Confession of 1967*
The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of

persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

***Hymn (#767)**

Together We Serve

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

Toccata al' Offertorio

Domenico Zipoli

***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: Loving God, we give you thanks for the ministry of reconciliation to which you call us in the name of Jesus Christ and his resurrection.

All: **Accept our gifts for your mission to heal all creation. May they be a testament to your love for us as we share them in love for you; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#754)**

Help Us Accept Each Other

***Charge & Benediction**

***Choral Benediction**

***Postlude**

Postludium in G Major

Johann Kasper

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



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O God of Every Nation 756

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.

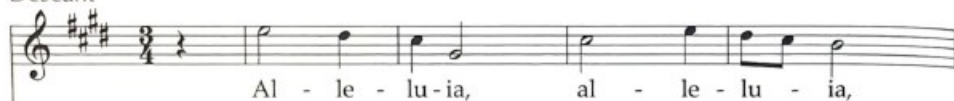
TEXT: William W. Reid Jr., 1958, alt.

MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; *Uwylbrau Mofiant*, 1872; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906
 Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

LLANGLOFFAN
 7.6.7.6.D

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,



He is the King of cre - a - tion.
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

Together We Serve

767

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm7)
B^b F Gm Dm7

1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)
E^b B^b Cm7 Fsus F

in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G) (D) (C) (Bm)
B^b F E^b Dm

We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
We of - fer a home to those who will come,
To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)
B^b E^b B^b Cm F7 B^b

ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

The first three words of this text appear in the website address for First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, California, for whose centennial the hymn was commissioned. The text draws on Ephesians 4:11–16, a passage describing the many gifts and ministries within the body of Christ.

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) in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the 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 line of the musical score continues the melody and bass line from the first line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

The third line of the musical score concludes the doxology. The melody and bass line end with a final cadence. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Help Us Accept Each Other 754

G Em Am7 B7 C

1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

C G A A7 D

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,

G Em Am7 B7 C

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:

C G Em D7 G

we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.