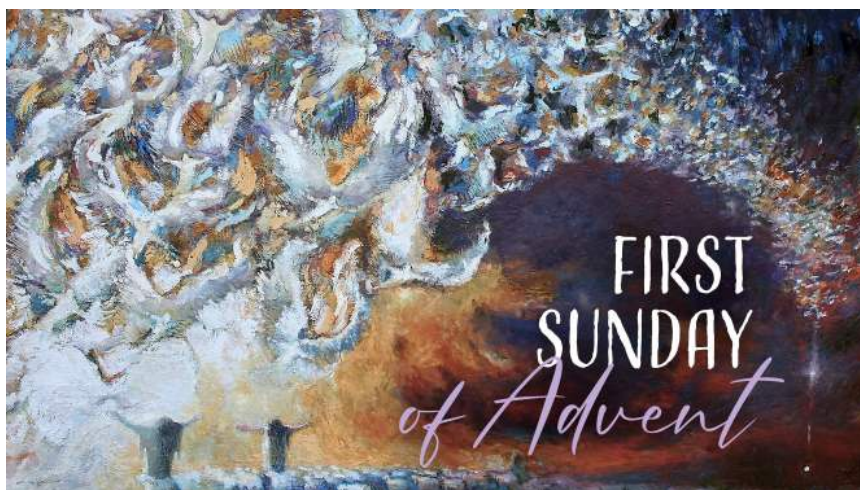


NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

November 30, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.



Prelude

Variations on "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"
Marty Franklin

Robert Powell

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin III

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

Alexis Cole, Forrest Steele, & River Steele

One: Let us keep watch! Hear what the Lord will say to us in these days.

Many: **We need a good word for right now,
but we can't hear God's voice over our own noise.**

One: The proud and the wealthy don't have the right spirit;
the arrogant will never understand.

Many: So let us be humble and generous,
listening before we speak and giving more than we receive.

One: The Lord is in his holy Temple.
Let all mortal flesh keep silence before God.

Many: We will keep silent and not be afraid.
We will be still and wait for a word.

One: Rejoice, O daughter Zion.
The Lord will come dwell in your midst, and none will be afraid.

Many: Let all living things be silent before the Lord.

One: Today we light a candle to remind us that hope is stronger than fear...

One: Let us pray: God, our hope is in you. Help us to listen for your word so that we will be ready to share the good news of Jesus with others. Thank you for the gifts of this season, for all the ways we can worship you and serve others while we wait.

All: Amen.

***Hymn (#347)**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Amanda Horan

***Prayer of Confession**

Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace amid our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. (Silence)

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: "Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun."

All: We are forgiven and we are freed. Let us be at peace. Amen.

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

***Congregational Response (#76, refrain)**

Do Not Be Afraid

Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Chosen and beloved, you are my own.

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you: by your name I called you for my own.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination (#95, sing 2x)

Prepare the Way of the Lord

First Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 2:1-5

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

Anthem

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Arr. Benjamin Harlan

Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 23:36-44

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

Sermon

Who Knows?

Rev. R.C. Griffin III

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith**

From *The Book of Common Worship*

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are In Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn (#103)**

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Elder Karolen Bowman

Offertory

Offertory on "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Joe Utterback

*Congregational Response (#607, alt. tune #147)

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise triune God whom we adore.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.*

*Responsive Prayer of Dedication

One: Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives.

**All: Take these gifts we offer today, O God,
and use them to the fulfillment of Christ's ministry.**

One: May these gifts help to free the captives, heal the sick, comfort the lonely,
feed the hungry, heal the wounded.

**All: As Christ's hands and feet, use us too,
in service to building your beloved community. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Hymn (#795)

Healer of Our Every Ill

*Charge & Benediction

*Postlude

Final Variation on "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" Robert Powell

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



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Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence 347

Capo 3: (Bm) Dm (G) B^b (D) F (Bm) Dm (C) E^b

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim, with

(G) B^b (F[#]) A (G) B^b (D) F (Em) Gm

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man
 on the way, as the Light of light de -
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the

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

mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
 ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
 pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,

(B) D (Em) Gm (Bm) Dm (A) C

Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
 he will give to all the faith - ful
 that the powers of hell may van - ish
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

(Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (F[#]m) Am (Bm) Dm

our full hom - age to de - mand.
 his own self for heaven - ly food.
 as the shad - ows clear a - way.
 al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high!"

The flowering of English hymnody in the 19th century included the rediscovery, translation, and versification of ancient Christian hymns, such as this text from one of the earliest existing Christian liturgies. It is set here to an adaptation of a 17th-century French melody.

TEXT: From Liturgy of St. James, 4th cent.; trans. Gerard Moultrie, 1864, alt.
 MUSIC: French melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

PICARDY
 8.7.8.7.8.7
 (alternate harmonization, 274)

Do Not Be Afraid

76

Refrain

Musical notation for the Refrain in G major, 3/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: E (All), B, C#m, G, D/F#, E, B, C#m, D, Bm7, Dmaj7, E, B, C#m, E7, D, Bm7, C, Em, Am7, Bm7, E. The lyrics are: "Do not be a - fraid, for I am with you. Cho - sen and be - loved, you are my own. Do not be a - fraid, for I have re - deemed you: by your name I called you for my own."

Leader or All

Musical notation for the Leader or All part in G major, 3/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: D, Bm7, E, D, Bm7, E. The lyrics are: "1 ♪ Look up, a new thing I am do - ing;
2 I am God, who blots out your trans - gres - sions;
3 ♪ The Lord, the Ho - ly One of Is - rael
♪ it springs forth; ♪ look and see it grow.
for my own sake I do not chide or blame.
♪ has prom - ised to lead us on our way,"

Musical notation for the final part in G major, 3/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, G, F, Dm7, Bsus, B. The lyrics are: "♪ Through wil - der - ness I'll make a lev - el high - way;
On - ly this much I ask, that you love me
♪ and we who love and wor - ship God our Mak - er
through des - erts, make streams and riv - ers flow.
and seek me and hon - or my name.
will lis - ten to hear the Spir - it say:"

Several verses from Isaiah 43 are paraphrased here: 1b (refrain), 19 (stanza 1), 25 (stanza 2). That prophetic oracle of salvation is rooted in the assurance of God's presence with the People of the Covenant. They, in turn, are called to seek God's will and proclaim God's power.

Prepare the Way of the Lord 95

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D)
E^b A^b E^b (chords continue)

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with lyrics 'Pre-pare the way of the Lord. Pre-pare the way of the Lord,'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.' The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. Above the first staff, the chords (D), (G), and (D) are indicated, corresponding to E^b, A^b, and E^b respectively. A note '(chords continue)' is placed above the second staff. The score is marked with an asterisk (*) at the beginning of each line, indicating it may be sung as a canon.

Pre-pare the way of the Lord. Pre-pare the way of the Lord,
and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

**May be sung as a canon.*

All three synoptic gospels identify John the Baptist as the forerunner of the Messiah (Matthew 3:3/ Mark 1:2-3/ Luke 3:4) in accord with Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 40:3b). Because the latter part of the text (Isaiah 52:10b) has yet to be accomplished, this is still our mission today.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

PREPARE THE WAY
7.7.6.7

103 Come Now, O Prince of Peace

오소서

1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, hope of u - ni - ty; make us one bod - y.

Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec-on-cile all peo - ple.

KOREAN

- 1 오소서 오소서 평화의 임금
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
- 2 오소서 오소서 사랑의 임금
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
- 3 오소서 오소서 자유의 임금
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
- 4 오소서 오소서 통일의 임금
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서

Originally created for a 1988 world conference for the peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, these four stanzas centering on peace, love, freedom, and unity demonstrate how texts for particular situations can become hymns that speak deeply to shared human longings.

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 music features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble 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 system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

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

The third system of music concludes the doxology. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

795 Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain D Em7 G A D Bm Bm7 G A

Heal - er of our ev - ery ill, light of each to - mor - row,

F#m7 Bm Em7 F#7 G Em A D *Fine*

give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

Bm F#m G F

1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your peace and
 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is still un -
 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - ery sis - ter, ev - ery
 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your way of

Em D/F# G Bm A G A *to Refrain*

glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
 heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

As soon becomes apparent, this sung prayer is not limited to personal physical healing. It deals with the larger and intangible gifts of peace and hope to vanquish fear and sorrow, and it is cast in the plural because it is concerned with the healing of a wounded community.