



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS December 28, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

What Child Is This?
Marty Franklin

Arr. John Leavitt

Words of Welcome

Rev. Amanda Horan

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

Elder Kathryn Steele

One: Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

Many: On this first Sunday of Christmas, we, too, have come to worship Jesus the Messiah: the son of David, the son of Abraham.

One: When the wise men saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down, paid him homage, and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Many: On this first Sunday of Christmas, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, O God.

One: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Many: Glory to God in the highest heaven!

*Hymn (#127)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of Christmas, we would never have thought to find your Savior in an innocent baby. We confess we would have expected a warrior with a great army. We would not have thought to find your kingdom to be one of service, obedience and humility. We confess we would have expected, maybe even wanted, a kingdom that reflected our own values and self-interests.

Lord, forgive us when we quickly leave Christmas behind and neglect to live lives worthy of our calling as followers of our Lord, the Prince of Peace. By your Holy Spirit, help us turn to you and live according to the values of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. (Silence)

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: The angel said to Joseph,:

Many: **"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."**

One: Indeed, he did and still does. Believe the good news:

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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 63:7-9

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

Anthem

Alicia Burnette-Anderson, Vicki Norman, & Sarah Privette

Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2:13-23

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

Sermon

God with Us

Rev. Amanda Horan

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith**

From *The Confession of 1967*

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

***Hymn (#138)**

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Arr. By John Leavitt

***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: Gracious and loving God, in this season of giving and receiving gifts, we thank you for your indescribable gift of your only Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All: **With gratitude and joy, we bring our tithes and offerings today. With your blessing, may they be multiplied and used to share the good news and love of Jesus Christ. Thank you, God, for your many blessings and your claim on our lives to share them with others. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#137)**

He Came Down

***Charge & Benediction**

***Congregational Benediction (#136, Refrain)**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

***Postlude**

Sing We Now of Christmas

Gordon Young

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



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127 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Jesus, the Light of the World

With a gospel feel

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing.
 2 Joy - ful all you na - tions, rise.
 3 Christ by high - est heaven a - dored;
 4 Hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Je - sus, the

light of the world. Glo - ry to the
 Join the tri - umph
 Christ, the ev - er -
 Hail, the Sun of

new - born King,
 of the skies. Je - sus, the light of the world.
 last - ing Lord;
 righ - teous - ness!

This blues-tinged setting of a familiar Christmas carol participates in a longstanding African American practice of adapting Anglo-European texts, as is done here by incorporating a repeated internal line and by appending a refrain that expands that line's language and imagery.

Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light.

The first line of the refrain consists of two staves. The treble staff contains a series of chords and eighth notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with eighth and quarter notes.

Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright.

The second line continues the melody. The treble staff features a triplet of eighth notes on the word 'shine'. The bass staff follows with corresponding harmonic support.

O, shine all a - round us by day and by

The third line of the refrain shows the melody moving to a higher pitch. The treble staff has a half note on 'O' followed by eighth notes. The bass staff continues with a steady accompaniment.

night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

The final line of the refrain concludes the phrase. The treble staff ends with a half note on 'night' and a final chord. The bass staff also concludes with a half note and a final chord.

Do Not Be Afraid

76

Refrain

All E B C#m G D/F# E B

Do not be a - fraid, for I am with you. Cho-sen and be -

C#m D Bm7 Dmaj7 E B C#m

loved, you are my own. Do not be a - fraid, for I have re -

E7 D Bm7 C Em Am7 Bm7 E *Last time*

deemed you: by your name I called you for my own.

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.

TEXT: Joy F. Patterson, 2004
MUSIC: Sally Ann Morris, 2008
Text and Music © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

ISAIAH 43
Irregular

Prepare the Way of the Lord

95

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D)

E^b A^b E^b (chords continue)

Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,

and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

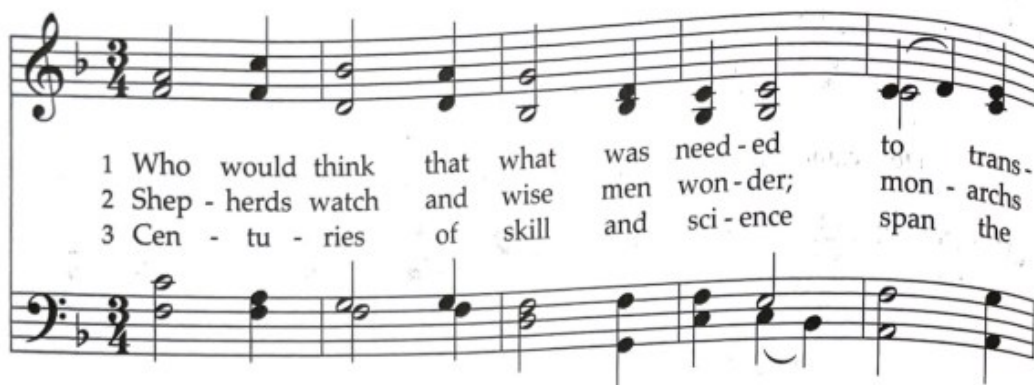
**May be sung as a canon.*

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.

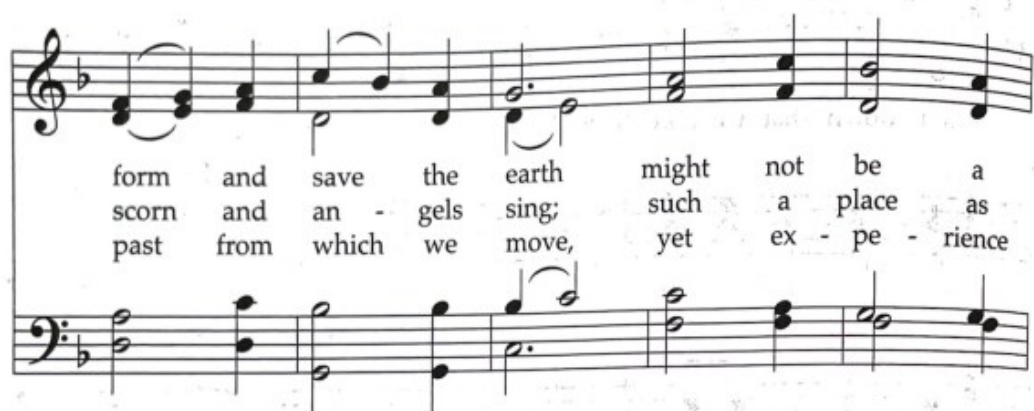
TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

PREPARE THE WAY
7.7.6.7

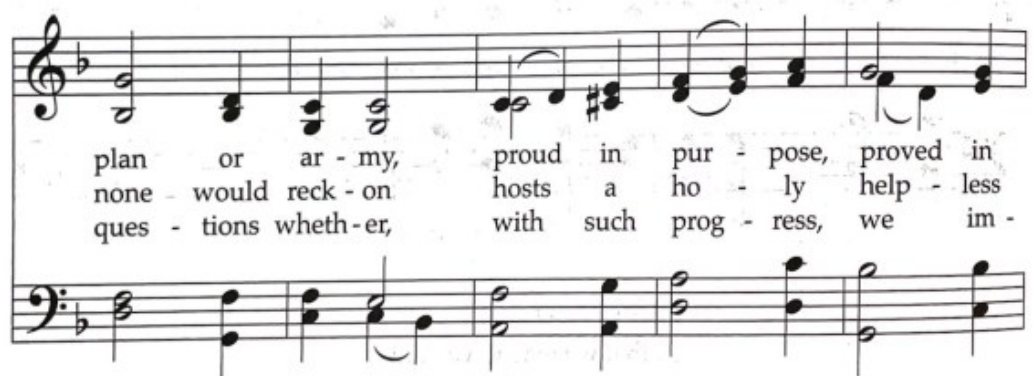
138 Who Would Think That What Was Needed



1 Who would think that what was need - ed to trans -
 2 Shep - herds watch and wise men won - der; mon - archs
 3 Cen - tu - ries of skill and sci - ence span the



form and save the earth might not be a
 scorn and an - gels sing; such a place as
 past from which we move, yet ex - pe - rience



plan or ar - my, proud in pur - pose, proved in
 none - would reck - on hosts a ho - ly help - less
 ques - tions wheth - er, with such prog - ress, we im -

Hindsight is nearly always clearer than foresight, and with gentle good humor this Christmas hymn points out how great was the gap between human expectation and God's actual way of providing a means of salvation for us. God's ways continually exceed our claims to comprehend them.

TEXT: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987

MUSIC: John L. Bell, 2005

Text and Music © 1987, 2005 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

WHITE ROSETTES
 8.7.8.7.D

worth? Who would think, de - spite de - ri - sion, that a
 thing. Sta - ble beasts and by - passed strang - ers watch a
 prove. While the hu - man lot we pon - der, lest our

child should lead the way?
 ba - by laid in hay; God sur - pris - es earth with
 hopes and hu - mor fray,

heav - en, com - ing here on Christ - mas Day.

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 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 lyrics are written below the notes.

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

The third system concludes the doxology. The melody ends with a final cadence, and the accompaniment provides a solid harmonic base. The lyrics are written below the notes.

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Leader: Why did he come?

Additional stanzas:

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain $\text{♪} = \text{♪} \text{♪}$

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940

MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT

7.6.7.6 with refrain