



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • BAPTISM OF THE LORD January 11, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

A Celtic Prelude
Marty Franklin

Michele McLaughlin

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: In the beginning, at creation,
the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

Many: In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.

One: God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross
from slavery to liberation.

Many: God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary's womb.

One: Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water.

**Many: Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman,
the first person to recognize that he was the Christ.**

One: Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

**All: God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn in a large family.
Praise be to God!**

***Hymn (#484)**

Out of Deep, Unordered Water

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Amanda Horan

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we are estranged from you and from one another. We treat others as strangers rather than as people created in your image and fellow children of God. We exploit the earth as though it were our possession rather than a gift entrusted to our care and a reflection of your image and glory. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit that we might live as people who have been baptized as your own children. (Silence)

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: Friends! God forgives all our sins and promises to bring us to everlasting life.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

***Congregational Response (#605)**

Praise to God the Father

*Praise to God the Father; praise to God the Son;
praise to God the Spirit: praise to the Three-in-One.
Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.
Praise to God Almighty; praise to the Holy One.*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination (#456, refrain)

Listen, God is Calling

*Listen, listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.*

First Scripture Lesson

Matthew 3:13-17

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

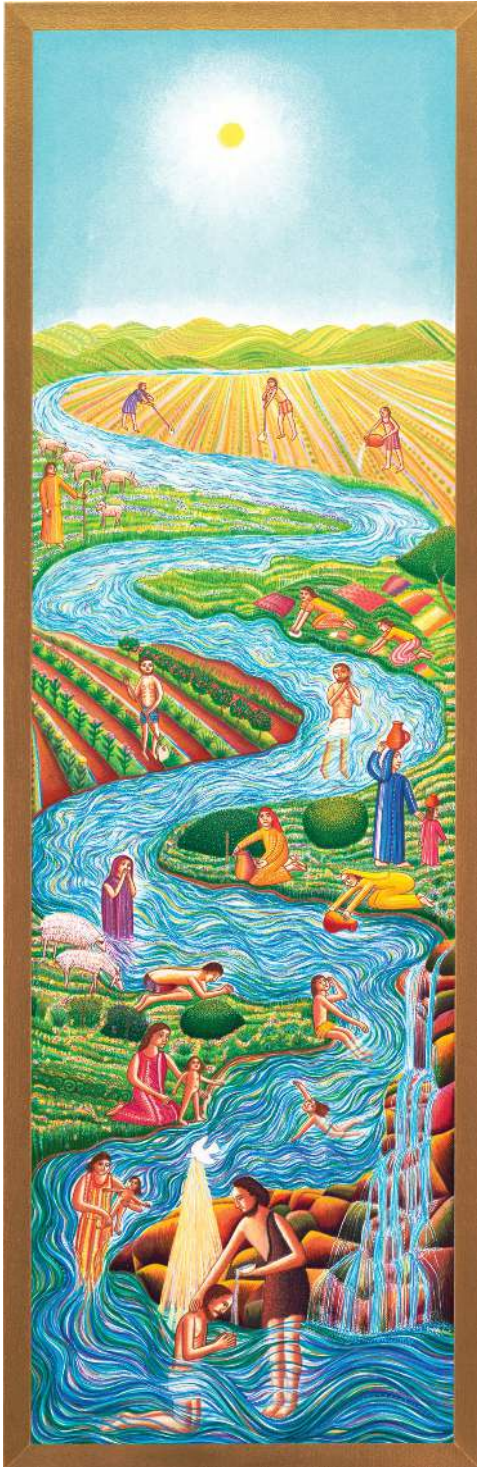
Anthem

Sarah Privette

Second Scripture Lesson

Psalm 29

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



Sermon

Voice

Rev. R.C. Griffin III

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith**

From

A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

***Hymn (#476)**

Crashing Waters at Creation

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

The River

Joseph Martin

***Congregational Response (#69, refrain)**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

***Responsive Prayer of Dedication**

One: O God, in our baptisms we have been named and claimed as your covenant people, connected deeply with you, with one another, and with the earth.

All: **May these gifts be used as a witness to your love, peace and justice at work in the world, renewing the face of the earth. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#475)**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

On the Banks of the Jordan

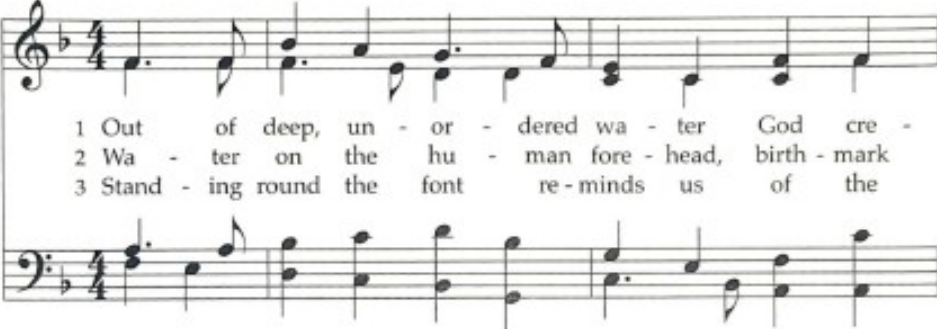
Arr. Kathy Smith

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

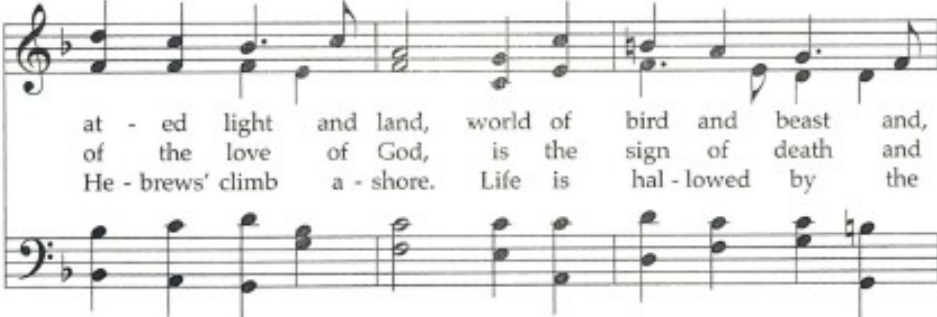


Scan for bulletin info,
news, and more!

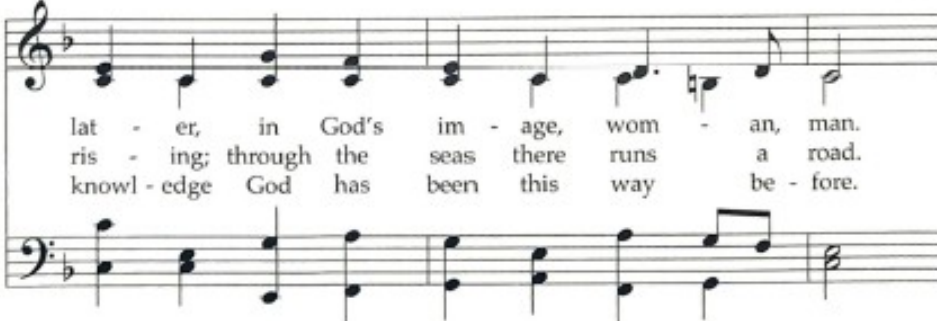
484 Out of Deep, Unordered Water



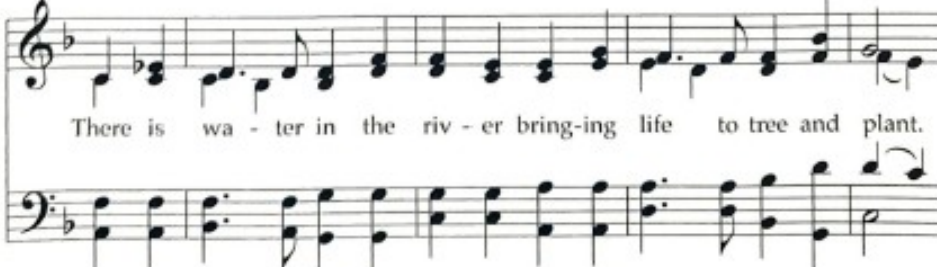
1 Out of deep, un - or - dered wa - ter God cre -
 2 Wa - ter on the hu - man fore - head, birth - mark
 3 Stand - ing round the font re - minds us of the



at - ed light and land, world of bird and beast and,
 of the love of God, is the sign of death and
 He - brews' climb a - shore. Life is hal - lowed by the



lat - er, in God's im - age, wom - an, man.
 ris - ing; through the seas there runs a road.
 knowl - edge God has been this way be - fore.



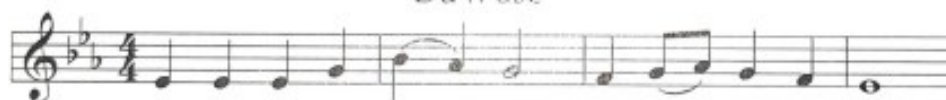
There is wa - ter in the riv - er bring - ing life to tree and plant.

By connecting the water in the font with the waters of creation, the parted waters through which the Israelites were set free, and the rivers that sustain life everywhere, this hymn reminds us that baptism incorporates us into God's creative, redemptive, and sustaining activity.

Praise to God the Father

605

Da n'ase



Praise to God the Fa - ther; praise to God the Son;
Da n'a - se! Da n'a - se! Da On - ya - me a - se!



praise to God the Spir - it: praise to the Three - in - One.
Da n'a - se! Da n'a - se! Da On - ya - me a - se!



Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.
Ef - ia - se o - ye n'a n'a - do - e do - e so.



Praise to God Al - might - y; praise to the Ho - ly One.
Da n'a - se! Da n'a - se! Da On - ya - me a - se!

TEXT: Anon.
MUSIC: Ghanaian melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011
Music Arr. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

DA N'ASE
Irregular

Listen, God Is Calling

456

Refrain

Neno lake Mungu

Leader *All*

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,
Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,

of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.
ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma, ma.

Leader *All*

1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader *All* *to Refrain*

that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

This anonymous Swahili hymn from Kenya follows a pattern of traditional African music (refrain, call-and-response stanzas, refrain) also common in African American spirituals. This text affirms that God's inviting and forgiving call can still be heard through the written Word.

TEXT: Kenyan; trans. Howard S. Olson, 1987

MUSIC: Kenyan; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1987

English lyrics: © 1987 Lutheran Theological College, Makumbi (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

MUSIC: Arr. © 1987 Austin C. Lovelace (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

NENO LAKE MUNGU

6.4.6.4 with refrain

476 Crashing Waters at Creation

Capo 1: (Em) Fm (F#dim7) Gdim7 (Em) Fm

1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered
 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the
 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a -
 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the

(D#dim7) Edim7 (Em) Fm

by the Spir - it's breath, first to wit - ness
 cap - tives passed on through, wash - ing off the
 round the One fore - told, o - pened to re -
 thirst and flood the soul. Well - spring, Source of

(F#dim7) Gdim7 (Em) Fm (Am) Bbm (B) C (Em) Fm

day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
 chains of bond - age: chan - nel to a life made new.
 veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
 life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness; make us whole.

Like the Thanksgiving Over the Water in the rite of Baptism, this text by a United Church of Canada minister recalls significant events in salvation history involving water. The final stanza is a prayer to Christ, the Living Water (John 4:10, 14), to quench our spiritual thirst.

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord



1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est



made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

TEXT: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
MUSIC: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813

NETTLETON
8.7.8.7.D