



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT March 1, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Toccata on "The God of Abraham Praise"
Marty Franklin

Gordon Young

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin

BREATH PRAYER

Inhale: The Lord is my light and my salvation...

Exhale: Of whom shall I fear?...

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: As God set Abram, Sarai, and Lot on a journey,
God calls us to follow in trust.

**Many: God is able to make us more than we have been
and blesses us on the way.**

One: As Jesus invited Nicodemus to be born again,
Christ invites us to become a new creation.

**All: Christ calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light,
and we are saved through him.**

***Hymn (#49)**

The God of Abraham Praise

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Amanda Horan

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change.

Sung Response (#577, sing 2x)

Lord, Have Mercy

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(Silence)

Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: Friends, God is for us and not against us!

For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

All: **Let us believe the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

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

***Congregational Response (#425, v. 1)**

Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace

*Son of God, whose heart is peace, Son of God, most holy,
to your presence we have come; give us now your love.*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination (#45, v. 1)

I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes

*I to the hills will lift my eyes; from whence shall come my aid?
My help is from the Lord alone, who heaven and earth has made.*

First Scripture Lesson

Genesis 12:1-4a

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

Anthem

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

Arr. John Leavitt

Second Scripture Lesson

Psalms 27

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

Sermon

Facing Fear

Rev. R.C. Griffin III

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.

***Hymn (#50)**

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

Meditation on SLANE

Elizabeth Krouse

***Congregational Response (#709, refrain)**

God, We Honor You

*God, we honor you. God, we trust in you. God, we worship and adore you.
Take what we bring, offered to you. Teach us to show your abundant blessings.
God, we honor you. God, we trust in you. God, we worship and adore you.*

***Responsive Prayer of Dedication**

One: Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts,
but also ourselves, in deep gratitude:

**All: for your call on our lives,
for your guidance in the baptismal journey,
and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others.**

One: Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray.

All: Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#450)**

Be Thou My Vision

***Charge & Benediction**

***Choral Benediction**

***Postlude**

Postlude on “Be Thou My Vision”

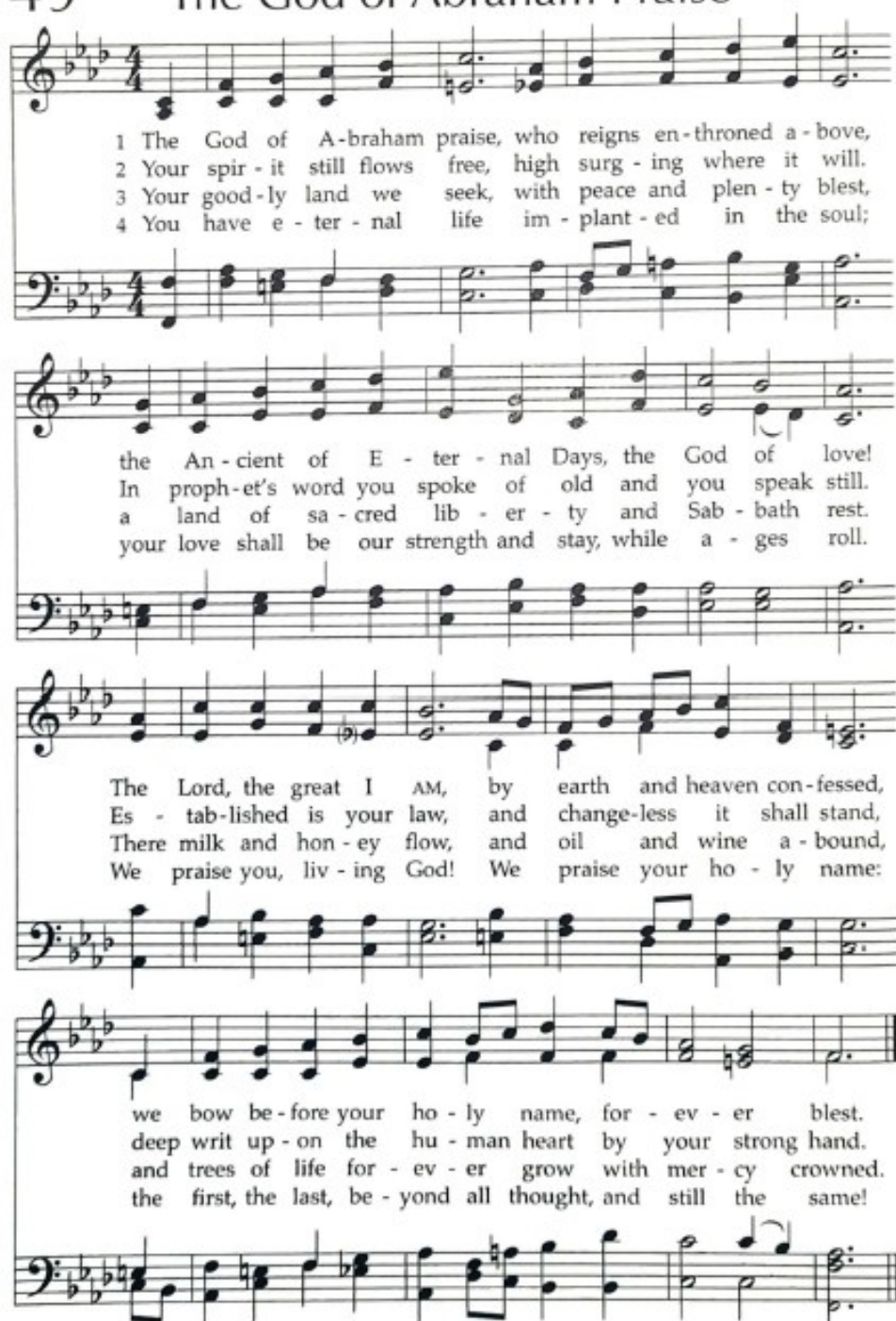
William Gudger

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



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news, and more!

49 The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;

the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

TEXT: Moses Maimonides, 12th cent.; vers. Daniel ben Judah Dnyan, 1404; stanzas 1, 3, trans. Thomas Olivers, c.1770, alt.; LEONI
 stanzas 2, 4, trans. Max Landsberg, Newton M. Mann, and William C. Gannett, 1884, 1910, alt.
 MUSIC: Jewish melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers, 1770 6.6.8.4.D

577

Lord, Have Mercy

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

Note: Lower voices may hum.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: Dinah Reindorf, 1987; arr. Sing! A New Creation, 2001

Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf

Music Arr. © 2001 Faith Alive Christian Resources

KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)

Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace 425

1 Son of God, whose heart is peace, Son of God, most ho - ly,
 2 Take a - way our sin - ful - ness, e - vil that im - pris - ons us;
 3 Warm our hearts to love you, Lord, you who died to save us;

to your pres - ence we have come; give us now your love.
 free us from what trou - bles us; give our souls re - lease.
 gath - er us with - in your arms, Je - sus, on this day.

Even in translation this hymn from the indigenous peoples of New Zealand conveys a stark beauty in its confident address to Christ and its prayer for release from the captivity of sin. Their traditional melody further connects us with these people on the other side of the world.

TEXT: Maori hymn; para. Shirley Lewis Murray, 1989

MUSIC: Maori melody

First © 1990 Christian Conference of Asia (adult, GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAMA NGAKAU/MARIE

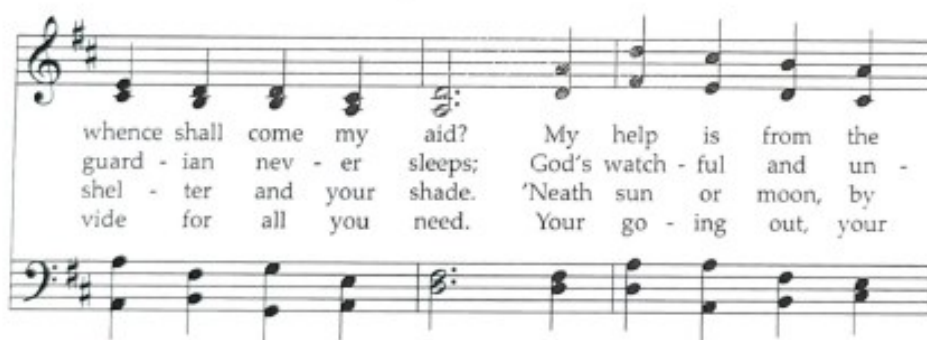
7.6.7.5

I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes 45

(Psalm 121)



1 I to the hills will lift my eyes; from
2 God will not let your foot be moved; your
3 Your faith - ful keep - er is the Lord, your
4 From e - vil God will keep you safe, pro -



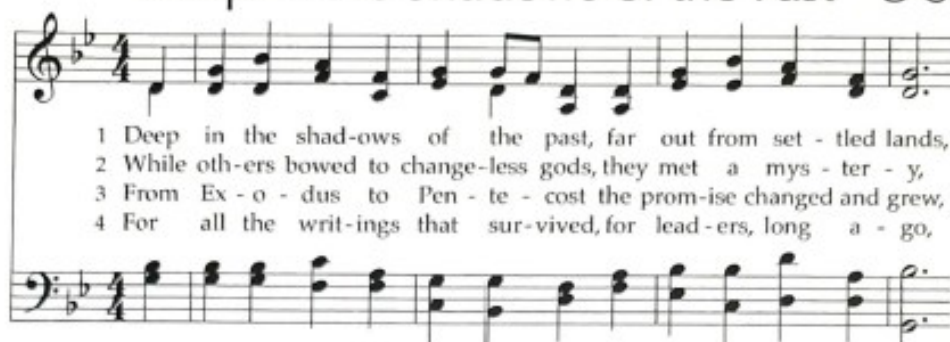
whence shall come my aid? My help is from the
guard - ian nev - er sleeps; God's watch - ful and un -
shel - ter and your shade. 'Neath sun or moon, by
vide for all you need. Your go - ing out, your



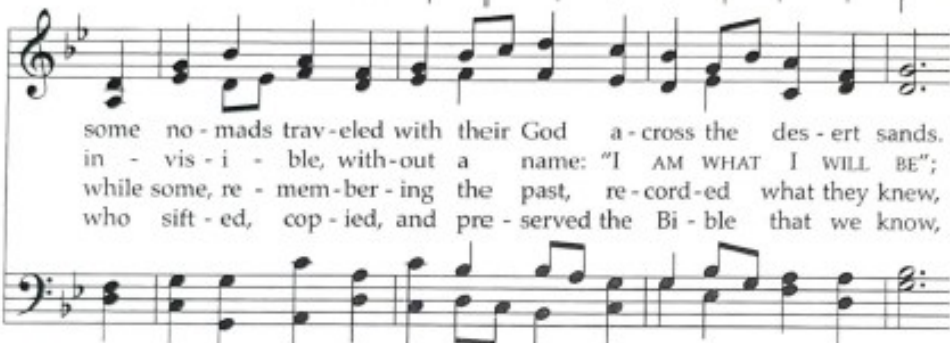
Lord a - lone, who heaven and earth has made.
slum - bering care pro - tects and safe - ly keeps.
day or night, you shall not be a - fraid.
com - ing in, God will for - ev - er lead.

Although the first stanza of this paraphrase of Psalm 121 draws heavily on 17th-century Scottish psalters, most of this version dates from the early 20th century. In its original source the tune printed here is one of twelve not assigned for use with a specific psalm.

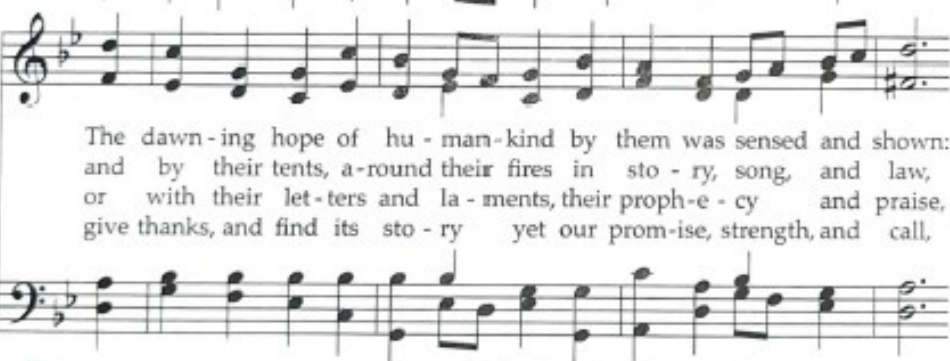
Deep in the Shadows of the Past 50



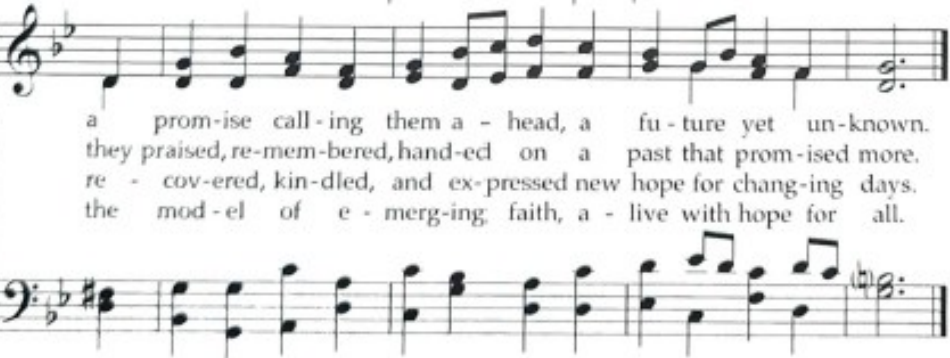
1 Deep in the shad-ows of the past, far out from set - tled lands,
2 While oth-ers bowed to change-less gods, they met a mys - ter - y,
3 From Ex - o - dus to Pen - te - cost the prom-ise changed and grew,
4 For all the writ-ings that sur-vived, for lead - ers, long a - go,



some no - mads trav-eled with their God a - cross the des - ert sands.
in - vis - i - ble, with-out a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
while some, re - mem-ber - ing the past, re - cord - ed what they knew,
who sift - ed, cop - ied, and pre - served the Bi - ble that we know,



The dawn-ing hope of hu - man-kind by them was sensed and shown:
and by their tents, a-round their fires in sto - ry, song, and law,
or with their let - ters and la - ments, their proph-e - cy and praise,
give thanks, and find its sto - ry yet our prom-ise, strength, and call,



a prom-ise call - ing them a - head, a fu - ture yet un-known.
they praised, re-mem-bered, hand-ed on a past that prom-ised more.
re - cov-ered, kin-dled, and ex-pressed new hope for chang-ing days.
the mod - el of e - merg-ing, faith, a - live with hope for all.

This vivid text reminds us of two truths we often forget: how deeply our faith is rooted in God's enduring covenant with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and how much we can learn from their story. The tune began life as the setting for a family Christmas carol.

God, We Honor You

God, we hon - or you. God, we trust in you.

God, we wor - ship and a - dore you.

Take what we bring, of - fered to you.

Teach us to show your a - bun - dant bless - ings.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, a - men.

**May be sung as a canon.*

This offertory acclamation was created by a Mennonite musician and draws on the simplicity and strength of a tradition accustomed to unaccompanied singing. When sung as a canon, this acclamation simultaneously voices praises of God, prayers to God, and alleluia.

450

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F[♯]) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A^b (D) E^b (F[♯]m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F[♯]) E^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.