



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT March 22, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Near the Cross
Marty Franklin

Douglas Wagoner

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin III

BREATH PRAYER

Inhale: I wait for the LORD...

Exhale: In his word I hope...

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

April Wyche

One: Out of the depths we call to you, O Lord.

All: Let your ears hear our supplication.

One: We wait for you, O God. In your word is our hope.

All: We wait for you, O Lord, for with you there is mercy.

One: Come. Let us worship God.

***Hymn (#53)**

O God, Who Gives Us Life

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who could live, who could stand?
We seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life.
We seek peace through war and find security in weapons.
We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying,
and pursue wealth by making others poor.

Sung Response (#577, sing 2x)

Lord, Have Mercy

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

(Silence)

And even so, you love us; still there is forgiveness with you!
Therefore we worship you; for you alone, O Lord,
can save us from death and redeem us from our sin. Amen.

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: "If you, God, kept records on wrongdoings, who would stand a chance?
As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit, and that's why you're worshiped."
All: **Through the life, death and resurrection of 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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

Anthem

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Larry Shackley

Second Scripture Lesson

Psalm 130

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

Sermon

Waiting

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 (#286)**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

April Wyche

Offertory

"O Sacred Head"

Michael Fontana

***Congregational Response (#709)**

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: Holy God, giver of life, we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people, your people, flesh and bone in the body of Christ.

All: **As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#791)**

For You, My God, I Wait

***Charge & Benediction**

***Choral Benediction**

Gregorian Lenten Amen

Debo Lawrence-Cornett

***Postlude**

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

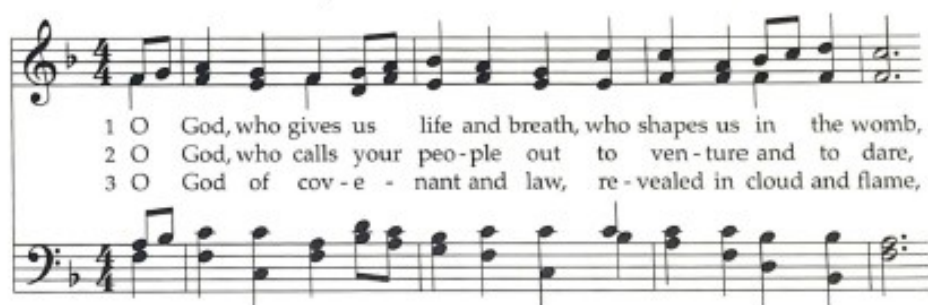
Anthony Giamanco

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

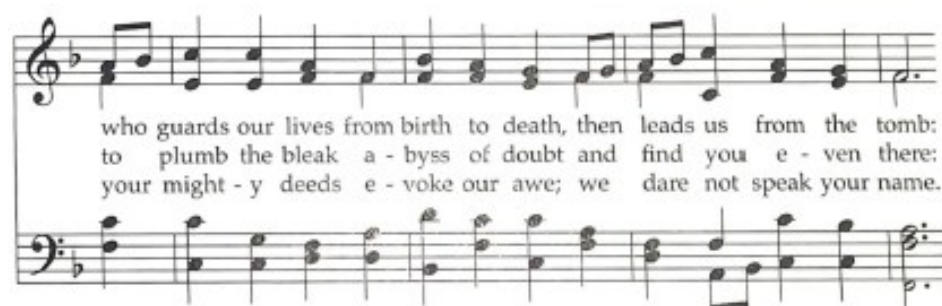


Scan for bulletin info,
news, and more!

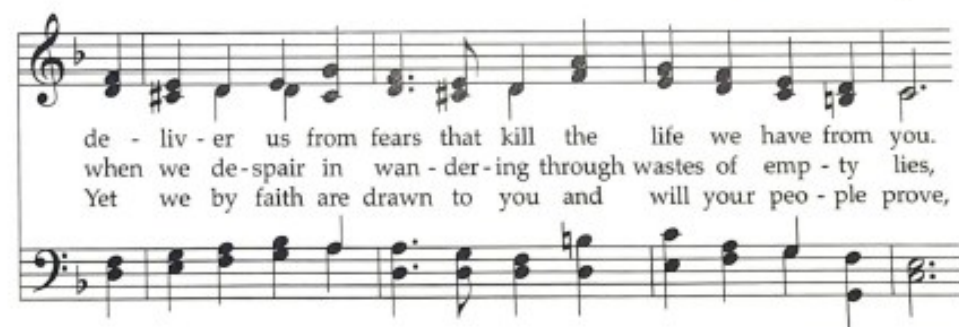
53 O God, Who Gives Us Life



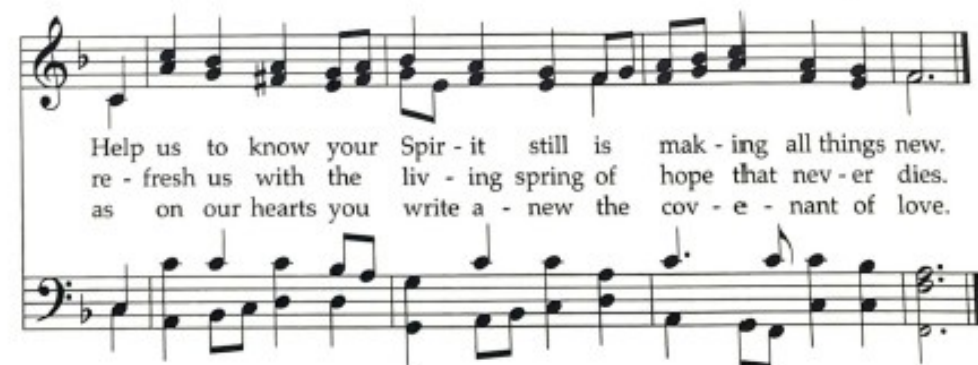
1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de-spair in wan - der-ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

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 (authn. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAMA NGAKAU/MARIE

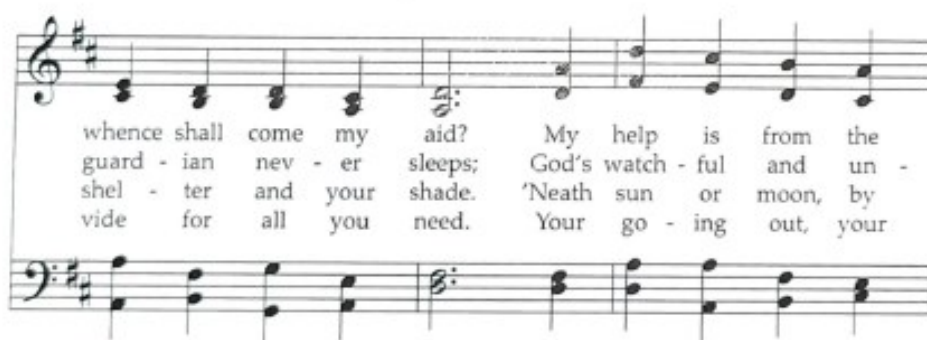
7.6.7.5

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.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are numbered 1 through 4, corresponding to the four verses.

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written in four lines, corresponding to the four verses.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

TEXT: Edwin Hatch, 1878
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
SM

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.

791 For You, My God, I Wait

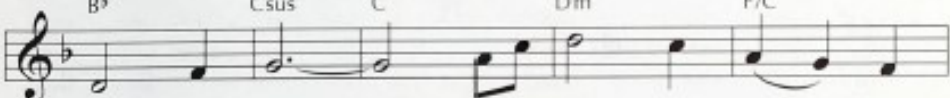
(Psalms 130 and 131)

Capo 3: (D) F (G) B^b (D) F (D) F



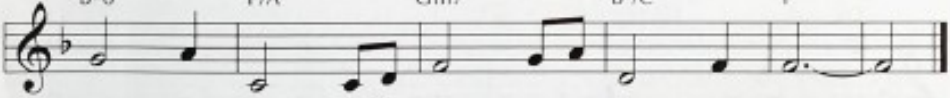
1 For you, my God, I wait with hope born
 2 Lord, hear my plead - ing voice, and let me
 3 If you should list my faults, the sins of
 4 For e - ven from the deep I know you
 5 And once my soul is still, in you I
 6 O God, you are my hope; I know that

(G) B^b (A sus) Csus (A) C (Bm) Dm (D/A) F/C



of the Word. Like sleep - less ones who
 know you hear! As sleep - less ones feel
 heart and hand, like sleep - less ones who
 hear my cries. Like sleep - less ones who
 find my rest, at peace as though a
 you for - give. Your love re - deems me

(G6) B^b6 (D/F#) F/A (Em7) Gm7 (G/A) B^b/C (D) F



long to dream I wait and call my Lord.
 rest ap - proach, I know my God is near.
 groan at dawn I know I could not stand!
 dream at last, I ease my wea - ry eyes.
 child up - on a gen - tle moth - er's breast.
 from the depths so I may rise and live.

Unlike most paraphrases of Psalm 130, this one begins in the thematic center of the psalm and works backwards to the familiar "out of the depths" language of the opening verse. This focus on waiting allows the paraphrase to incorporate the imagery of the brief related Psalm 131.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2003

MUSIC: David Ward, 2011

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SPRINGTIME

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