



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER April 26, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Brother James' Air
Marty Franklin

King

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: Sisters and brothers, let us gather together with glad and generous hearts.

All: For many signs and wonders are being done among us.

One: Let us break bread together and share our lives in common.

**All: Let us give what we can to all who have needs
so that all people, no matter who they are,
may regard us with good will.**

One: Let us devote ourselves to our prayers and to the gospel.

All: For in this way God will add to our numbers every day.

***Hymn (#410)**

What Is This Place

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

God Is Calling through the Whisper

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy One, we confess to you and to one another that we have not always followed Christ's example. When we have been abused, we have been abusive in return. We have gone astray. Lead us back into your fold and guard our souls in Jesus' name. (Silence)

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Friends, the promise of our faith is that if we entrust ourselves to the One who judges justly, we need not feel threatened, for we will be returned to righteousness.

All: **Having been brought back into the safety of God's fold,
we declare the good news to one another:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.**

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

***Congregational Response (#243, sing 2x)**

Be Not Afraid

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen alleluia!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination (#246, v. 5)

Christ Is Alive!

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

First Scripture Lesson

Acts 2:42-47

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

Anthem

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Mike Norman

arr. Carwithen

Second Scripture Lesson

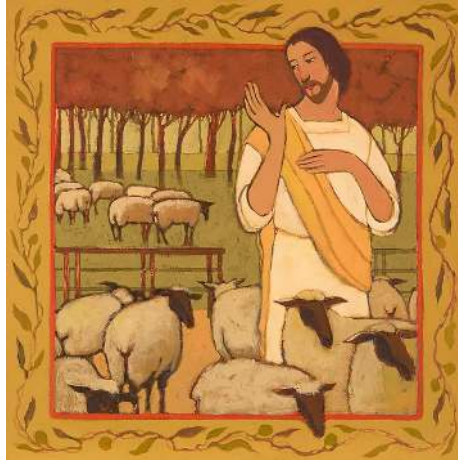
John 10:1-10

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

Sermon

The Voice of Life

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 (#187)**

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

***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.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

One: Holy and generous God, you have anointed us and we are yours.

All: **Bless these tithes and offerings that they may become green pastures
and still waters for any and all who need your comfort and restoration.
Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#541)**

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

***Charge & Benediction**

***Choral Benediction**

***Postlude**

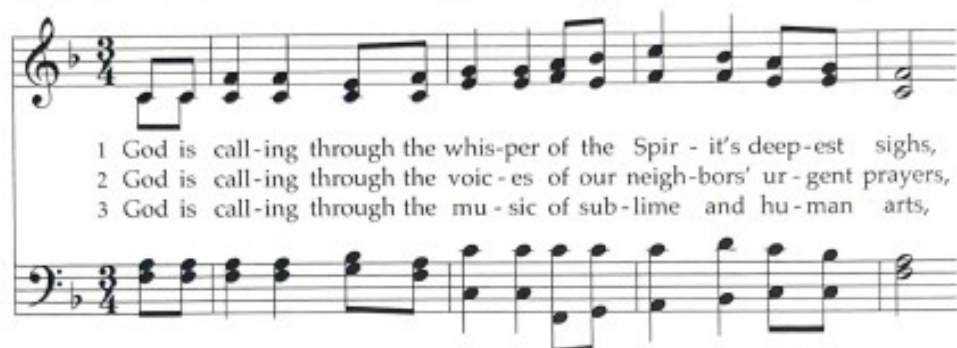
"Thine Is the Glory"

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

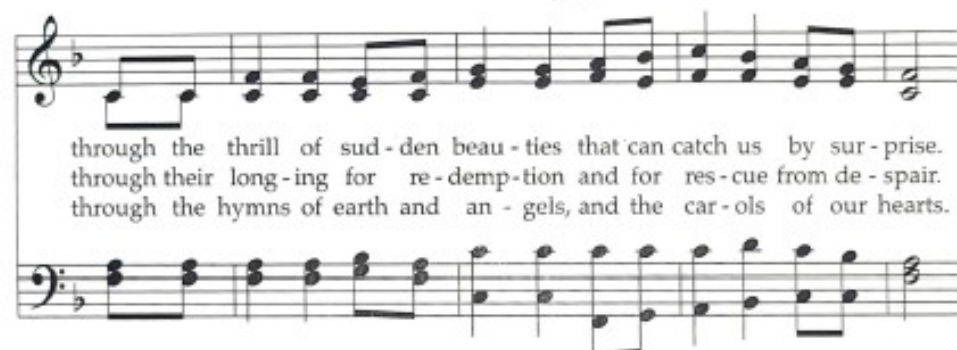


Scan for bulletin info,
news, and more!

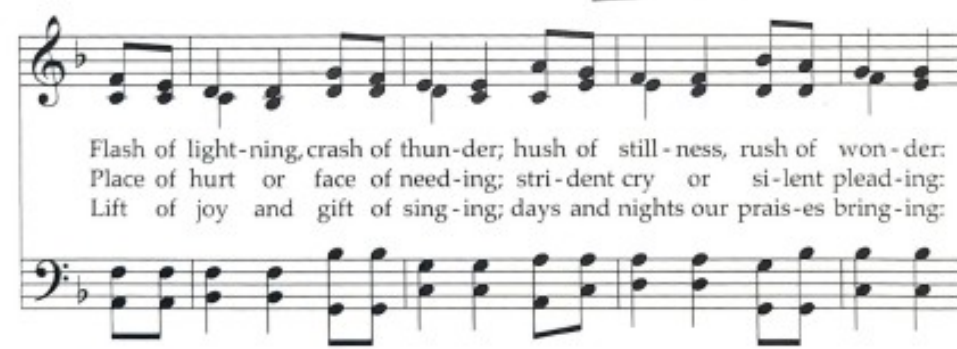
410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,



through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:



God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—and we hear! God is call-ing—and we hear!

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

Be Not Afraid

243

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!" The score is presented in two systems, each with a Soprano staff and a Bass staff.

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

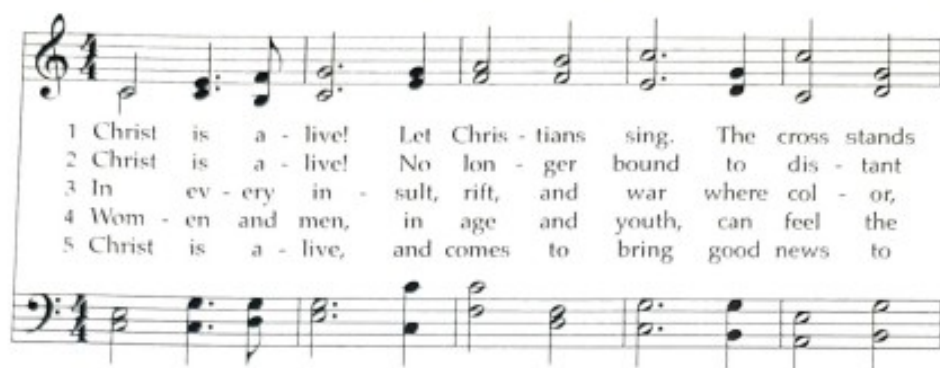
Intended for repeated singing like other chants from the Taizé Community, this text began in Czech as "Nebojte se." The English version uses the language of the angel's greeting to Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary," who went to Jesus' tomb on Easter morning (Matthew 28:5-6).

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1998
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1998
Text and Music © 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

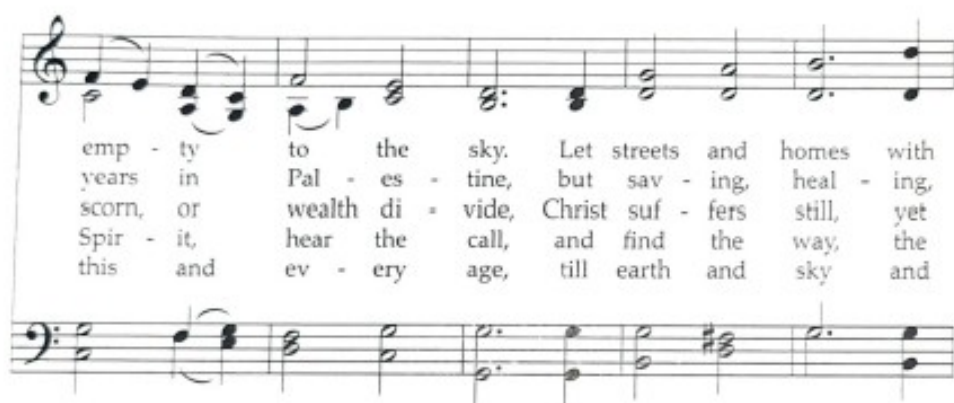
BE NOT AFRAID
4.4.8.D

Christ Is Alive!

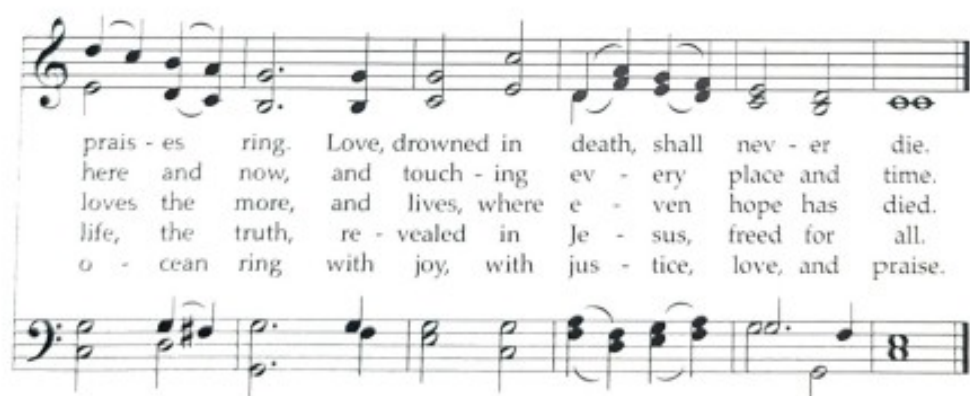
246



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - every age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - every place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1995

MUSIC: Muska Sarita, c. 1778

Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

TRURO
LM

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187

1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

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 allelulias.

God Be with You Till We Meet Again 541

Unison *Harmony*

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing coun - sels
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen wings pro -
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's ban - ner

guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en - fold you:
 tect - ing hide you, dai - ly mar - na still pro - vide you:
 thick con - found you, put un - fai - ing arms a - round you:
 float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be - fore you:

Unison

God be with you till we meet a - gain.

A North American Congregational minister wrote this text as a Christian expansion of the root sense of "good-bye": God be [with] ye/you. The tune, named for a cousin, was composed by one of the few 20th-century British composers to make a major contribution to hymnody.

TEXT: Jeremiah Eames Rankin, 1880, alt.
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

RANDOLPH
 9.8.8.9
 (alternate tune: GOD BE WITH YOU, 542)