



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 3, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Deo Gratias
Marty Franklin

Giamanco

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: Our God refuses to shame us. God's justice delivers us.
All: Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!
One: Our God listens to us. God rescues us from danger.
All: Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!
One: Our God renews our spirits. God is always faithful.
All: Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!
One: We trust our God. Let us worship God, whom we call ours.
All: Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!

*Hymn (#79)

Light Dawns in a Weary World

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

*Call to Confession

Rev. Amanda Horan

*Prayer of Confession

God of compassionate mercy, your grace and love extend to all people. We are called to forgive others, as you forgive us. Far too often, however, we wield

forgiveness like a weapon. We see others doing wrong and feel haughty when we grant them grace. We call out the sins of the powerful but fail to notice our own power. We become narrow in our quest for truth, and ignore other people, in other rooms, crying out for your justice. Help us search ourselves and seek forgiveness from those we have made beg us for mercy. Connect us to others and guide us to share power and grace as we follow you. (Silence)

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Jesus promised his followers there are many rooms in a world filled with God's justice. When we speak truth to our own power, we make room for God's just world. So let us declare the good news together:

All: God raised Jesus and made room for us, calling us to live out of God's forgiveness by making sure there is room for all. 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

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

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

Anthem

To Everything There is a Season

Harris

Second Scripture Lesson

Acts 7:55-60

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

Sermon

The Shining

Rev. R.C. Griffin III



WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith**

from the *Belhar Confession*

We believe in the triune God, Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through the Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe:

- **that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people**
- **that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged**
- **that God calls the church to follow them in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry**
- **that God frees the prisoner, supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, and blocks the path of the ungodly**
- **that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

To the one and only God, Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

***Hymn (#50)**

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

Prayer of Gratitude

McLaughlin

***Congregational Response (#709, sing 3x**)**

God, We Honor You

(1) God, we honor you. God, we trust in you. God, we worship and adore you.

(2) Take what we bring, offered to you. Teach us to show your abundant blessings.

(3) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen.

***On the second & third time around, we invite you to sing 1 of the above parts
as we sing all 3 parts together.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#463)**

How Firm a Foundation

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Celebratory Postlude

Esmond

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



Scan for bulletin info,
news, and more!

79 Light Dawns on a Weary World

G D C G C

1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -

G D G D

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

C G C G D G

wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain G C G

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;

G Em D C G

the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!

C G

We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,

G C D G

as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

This is a hymn whose tune came first. Upon hearing it, the author recalled the watered garden of Isaiah 58:11, which in turn led to Isaiah 55:12, paraphrased in the refrain. Then came the stanzas, organized around their first two words: Light dawns, Love grows, Hope blooms.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2001

MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 2000

Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music © 2000 William P. Rowan (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TEMPLE OF PEACE
 7.6.6.7.8 with refrain

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!

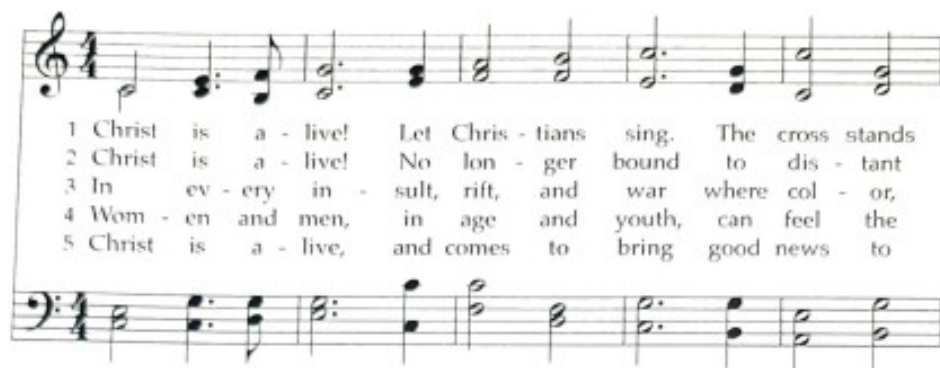
Intended for repeated singing like other chants from the Taizé Community, this text began in Czech as "Nebojte se." The English version uses the language of the angel's greeting to Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary," who went to Jesus' tomb on Easter morning (Matthew 28:5-6).

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!

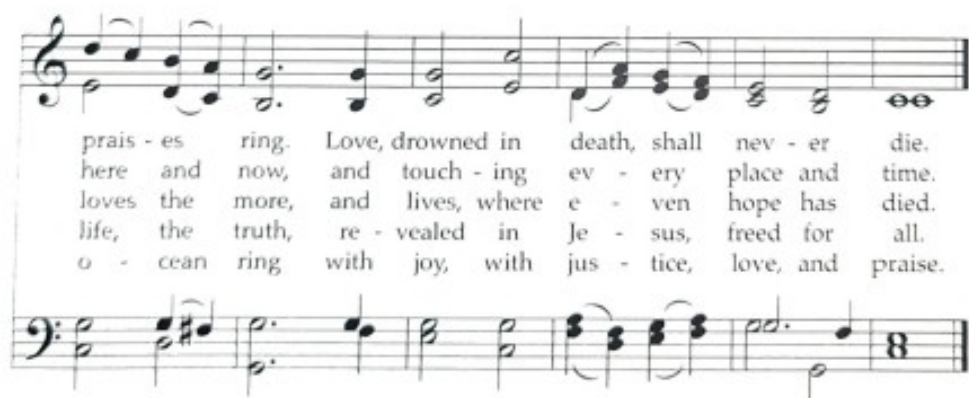
246



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.

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 card.

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.

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.