



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • 13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME June 28, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Prelude on THAXTED
Marty Franklin

Sheldon Ridge Love

Words of Welcome

Rev. Amanda Horan

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: We wonder together, "Who is God?"

**All: God is the Creator who formed the mountains and the oceans,
who set the sun and the moon and the stars in the sky,
who designed jellyfish, giraffes, axolotls, and even humans.**

One: Who is God?

**All: God is our Redeemer who knows us better than even our best friends,
who sees our strengths and our weaknesses and who loves us always.**

One: Who is God?

**All: God is our Sustainer who guides us, who accompanies us,
who goes behind, beside, and before us all the days of our lives.**

One: Come, let us worship the Lord.

***Hymn (#392)**

Jesus, We Are Here

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

Rev. R.C. Griffin III

***Prayer of Confession**

God of mystery and possibility, we confess that there is so much about you that we do not understand. More than that, we confess we have become convinced that we are supposed to understand you. Instead of appreciating your free-Spirited-ness, we try to force you into neat boxes and simple categories. Forgive us for doing to you what we don't like others doing to us: making assumptions about you and not seeing you for who you really are. By your Spirit, transform us into people who are comfortable with mystery and who trust your leading. (Silence)

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: God is always more ready to forgive, more eager to love, and more glad to show grace than we realize.

All: **This gift of grace is ours to receive and to share with others. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

One: May the peace of Christ be with you in your wondering.

All: **And also with you in your wandering.**

***Congregational Response (#48, sing 2x)**

Rain Down

Rain down; rain down; rain down your love on your people.

Rain down; rain down; rain down your love, God of life.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination (#288)

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

First Scripture Lesson

Psalm 8

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

Anthem

How Can I Keep From Singing?
NWPC Chancel Choir

arr. Andy Beck

Second Scripture Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

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

Sermon

Wonder and Wander

Rev. Amanda Horan

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith** from *The Confession of 1967 (Inclusive Language version)*

We believe that God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.

We believe that God has created us for personal relationship in which we may respond to the love of the Creator. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.

***Hymn (#480)**

Take Me to the Water

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Elder Polly E. Pruitt

Offertory

The Island

Michele McLaughlin

***Congregational Response (#701)**

Lord, Prepare Me

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.



***Prayer of Dedication**

One: God of power, compassion, and creativity, we bring you these offerings because we know who you are.

All: You are a God who makes a way in the desert and paths in the wilderness.

One: You are the source of new life, and you love to surprise people with your goodness.

All: Use these gifts, and use us, O Lord, as part of your creative, joyful, and life-giving work in this world. Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#737)**

Lord, Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

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

Called Congregational Meeting

The Session of NWPC has called for a Meeting of the Congregation to be held in hybrid fashion on Sunday, July 5 following our later worship service (approximately 12:00pm). The purpose of the meeting is to hear and act upon a recommendation concerning the sale of a land parcel in Finley Park.



scan for bulletin info,
news, and more!

Jesus, We Are Here

Jesu, tawa pano

1 Je - sus, we are here; Je - sus, we are here; Je - sus,
1 Je - su, ta - wa pa - no; Je - su, ta - wa pa - no; Je - su,

The first system of the musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is in the Soprano part, with the other parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: '1 Je - sus, we are here; Je - sus, we are here; Je - sus, 1 Je - su, ta - wa pa - no; Je - su, ta - wa pa - no; Je - su,'.

Leader: Wel - come, Je - sus.

Mam - bo Je - su.

we are here; we are here for you.
ta - wa pa - no; ta - wa pa - no, mu zi - ta re - nyu.

The second system of the musical score continues the melody and harmony. The lyrics are: 'we are here; we are here for you. ta - wa pa - no; ta - wa pa - no, mu zi - ta re - nyu.'

2 Savior,... 3 Teacher,... 4 Spirit,...

TEXT and MUSIC: Patrick Matsikenyeri, 1990

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JESUS, TAWA PANO

Irregular

Rain Down

48

Capo 3: (D) (F#7) (Bm) (D7) (G)

F A7 Dm F7 Bb

Rain down; rain down; rain down your

(D/F#) (Em7) (A7) (D) (F#7) (Bm)

F/A Gm7 C7 F A7 Dm

love on your peo - ple. Rain down; rain

(D7) (G) (Em) (A7) (G) (D)

F7 Bb Gm C7 Bb F

down; rain down your love, God of life.

This refrain comes from a longer song based on Psalm 33, but the striking image of God's love falling like rain is not actually present in that psalm. That image may be based on Ezekiel 34:26, where God promises to send showers of blessing upon the people of the covenant.

TEXT: Jaime Cortez, 1991
 MUSIC: Jaime Cortez, 1991; arr. John Carter, 2001
 Text and Music © 1992 Jaime Cortez (Published by OCP)

RAIN DOWN
 Irregular

Spirit of the Living God 288



KOREAN

살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
 빛으시고 채우소서
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서

SPANISH

*Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
 Tómame, cámbiame, lléname, úsame.
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.*

Both the words and the music of this prayer-song were written by a Presbyterian minister from Tarboro, North Carolina. The words were initially inspired by Jeremiah 18:1-6; a friend helped him set them to music during an evangelistic meeting in Orlando, Florida, where the song was first sung.

TEXT: Daniel Iverson, 1926; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee; Spanish trans. anon.
 MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926
 Text and Music © 1935 Birdwing Music (admin. EMMCMGPublishing.com)
 Korean Trans. © 2001 Birdwing Music (admin. EMMCMGPublishing.com)

LIVING GOD
 Irregular

480 Take Me to the Water

1 Take me to the wa - ter. Take me to the wa -
 2 I love Je - sus. I love Je -
 3 He's my Sav - ior. He's my Sav -
 4 Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu -

ter. Take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
 sus. I love Je - sus, yes, I do.
 ior. He's my Sav - ior, yes, he is.
 jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

This African American spiritual sums up the commitment of a candidate for baptism: the request for the rite, an expression of motivation, and a succinct affirmation of faith. The widening melodic lines build anticipation and give weight to the final phrase of each stanza.

Lord, Prepare Me

701

Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
 ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,
 I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

The lines given here convey the central message of the longer song for which they form the refrain. The principal Scripture reference is 1 Corinthians 3:16–17, Paul's reminder to the Christians at Corinth that "[they] are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in [them]."

TEXT: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982

MUSIC: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982; arr. Nylea L. Butler-Moore

Text and Music © 1982 Full Armor Music Publishing Co.

Music Arr. © 2013 Full Armor Music Publishing Co. (admin. in the U.S.A. Peermusic III, Ltd./Hal Leonard Corp.)

SANCTUARY

Irregular

737 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Jésus, je voudrais te chanter

1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

I'll tell ev - ery - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - ily you saved by your love,

Originally created in French, this text reflects the ministry of a Roman Catholic religious community, the Little Sisters of Jesus, who work with people on the margins of society. This hymn is also beloved by the Ark (L'Arche) communities who minister to adults with disabilities.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble staff at the top and a bass staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), indicating G major. The time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be 4/4 based on the note values. The lyrics are written in the center, between the two staves. The lyrics are: "Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney. Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney. As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant. we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with many chords and some single notes.

Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.