



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 19, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Marty Franklin

Words of Welcome

Rev. Amanda Horan

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: We've come to worship God,
All: who loved us before we were yet born,
One: who knows us even better than we know ourselves,
All: whose presence never leaves us,
One: and whose love for us never ceases.
All: This is our God. Let's worship together!

***Hymn (#29)**

O God, You Search Me

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

Rev. R.C. Griffin III

***Prayer of Confession**

One: Merciful God, you plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.

When we deprive others of that same opportunity,

All: forgive us.

One: When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field,

All: forgive us.

One: When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them for who they are,

All: forgive us.

One: When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,

All: forgive us.

One: When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there,

All: forgive us.

One: O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.

All: You search us out and lay your hand upon us. You know what we are going to say even before we speak. So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected, the lonely and the outcast, and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others and in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. (Silence)

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Nothing is impossible with God. There is no place you can go, no end of the earth you can run, where God cannot find you.

All: There is nothing on earth or beyond death that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

One: You are forgiven. You are loved. You are reconciled to God.

All: May we go and live with the love of God.

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

***Congregational Response (#312, v. 1)**

Take Us As We Are, O God

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination (#312, v. 2)

Take Us As We Are, O God

First Scripture Lesson

Psalm 139:1-12; 23-24

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

Anthem

Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

Sermon

Weeds & Wheat

Rev. Amanda Horan



WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

*Affirmation of Faith

The 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 (#308)**

O God in Whom All Life Begins

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

***Congregational Response (#312, v. 3)**

Take Us As We Are, O God

***Prayer of Dedication**

One: Gracious God, you have sown good seed among us.

All: Receive now the harvest of what you have planted, the good gifts of our lives, time and resources, to further your kingdom of heaven. Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#543)**

O Christ, Surround Me

***Charge & Benediction**

***Congregational Benediction (#312, v. 4)**

Take Us As We Are, O God

***Postlude**

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



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O God, You Search Me

(Psalm 139)

29



1 O God, you search me and you know me. All my
 2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing. You dis -
 3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord, you have
 4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me, still I
 5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me, gave me



thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze. When I
 cern my pur - pose from a - far, and with
 known its mean - ing through and through. You are
 search for shel - ter from your light. There is
 life with - in my moth - er's womb. For the



walk or lie down you are be - fore me: ev - er the
 love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me: in ev - ery
 with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing: God of my
 no - where on earth I can es - cape you: e - ven the
 won - der of who I am, I praise you: safe in your



mak - er and keep - er of my days.
 mo - ment of life or death, you are.
 pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.
 dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.
 hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Psalm 139 is one of the most introspective and most intimate of all the psalms, showing an acute mindfulness of God's presence in all aspects of one's life. Sometimes resisted, this omnipresence ultimately becomes a ground of hope, a promise that we never stray beyond God's care.

Take Us As We Are, O God 312

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



1 Take us as we are, O God, and claim us as your own. As
 2 Bless us for your ser - vice, Lord; no pow - er we de - vise will
 3 Break us o - pen to dis - close how bro - ken - ness can heal, wher -
 4 Give us to the world you love as light and salt and yeast, that

(Em) Gm (Am) Cm (Em) Gm (D) F (G) B^b



once you chose to tell your love in hu - man flesh and bone, so
 ev - er give us strength e - nough or make us tru - ly wise, yet
 ev - er bro - ken loaves suf - fice to give a crowd a meal and
 we may nour - ish in your name the last, the lost, the least, un -

(D) F (Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (Asus) (A) (A) 1-3 4
 Csus C C

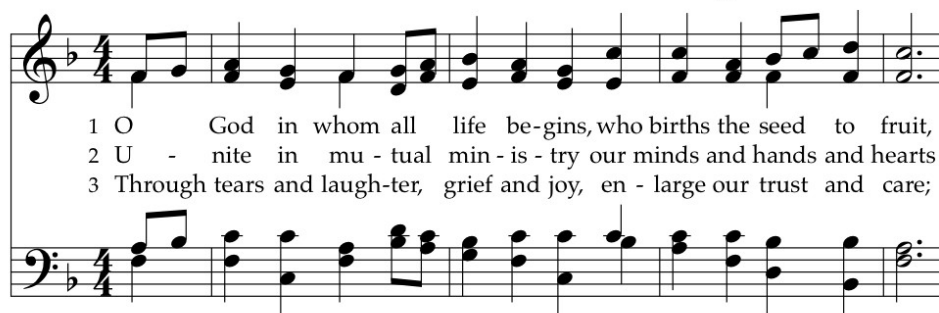


let our lives be used to make your sav - ing pur - pose known.
 by your prom - ise we can know the peace your grace sup - plies.
 graves break o - pen to re - lease new life from death's dread seal.
 til at length you call us all to your un - end - ing feast.

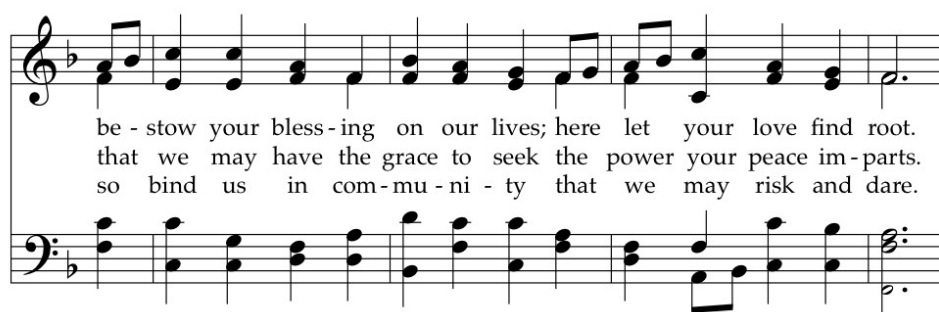
Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This Lord's Supper text is organized around the fourfold liturgical shape traced by Dom Gregory Dix in *The Shape of the Liturgy*: take, bless, break, give. It considers how the phrase "Body of Christ," used for sacramental bread, can also be applied to the baptized people of God.

O God in Whom All Life Begins 308



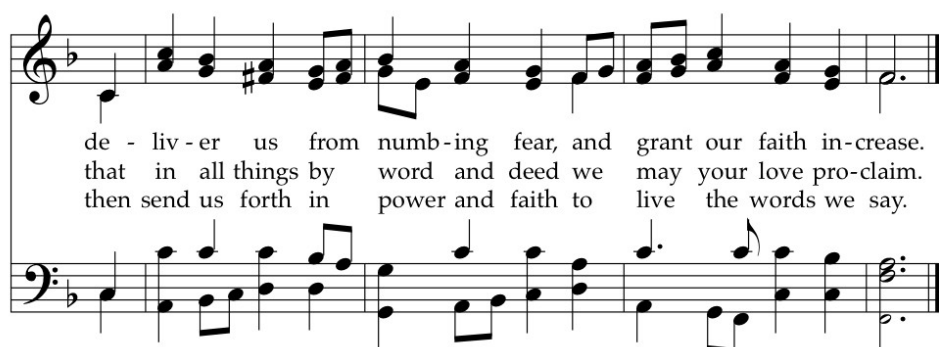
1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,
 2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts
 3 Through tears and laugh-ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;



be - stow your bless-ing on our lives; here let your love find root.
 that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im-parts.
 so bind us in com-mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.



Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa-tience, joy, and peace;
 So let our var-ied gifts com-bine to glo - ri - fy your Name
 Be with us when we gath - er here to wor-ship, sing, and pray;



de - liv - er us from numb-ing fear, and grant our faith in-crease.
 that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro-claim.
 then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

Although it was written for the installation of a pastor, this text is really about the mutual ministry shared by all members of a worshiping community, both when they are gathered and when they go forth into the world. The tune used here may have Christmas associations for some.

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

543

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.