



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 26, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Marty Franklin

Janis Dunson Wilson

Words of Welcome

Rev. Amanda Horan

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: The decrees of the Lord are wonderful,

All: The unfolding of God's word gives light and understanding.

One: Turn to us, O God, and be gracious to us.

All: Make your face shine upon your servants.

***Hymn (#714)**

God of the Fertile Fields

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

Rev. R.C. Griffin III

***Prayer of Confession**

God of grace, we want to understand what the kingdom of heaven is like, but our minds are clouded by cares and concerns of the world. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes in mysterious ways. We fail to be whole-hearted in our faith and discipleship. We fail to put our trust in the treasures of your kingdom instead of the treasures of the world. Gracious God, hidden and manifest, give us eyes to see and ears to hear your good news for the world even here and now. Transform our lives and our world by your grace. (Silence)

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Friends, hear these words, and listen to this good news; the empires of this world will rise and fall, but the mercy of the Lord will never end.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, thanks be to 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

1 Kings 3:5-12

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

Anthem

You Are My All in All
Karen Worley

Lloyd Larson

Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46

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

Sermon

The Kingdom of God Is Like...

Rev. Amanda Horan



WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith**

Rom. 8:1, 28, 38, 39

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn (#5)**

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

Be Thou My Vision

Harold Rutz

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

Take Us As We Are, O God

***Prayer of Dedication**

One: We give you thanks, O God, for the many blessings that you have bestowed upon us.

All: As from even the smallest of seeds, your kingdom grows, bless our tithes, gifts and offerings, and bless us that we might be ever more faithful in your work of reconciliation, love and joy. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#771)**

What Is the World Like

***Responsive Charge &**

One: Go—as seed and yeast,

All: **expanding and reaching, sharing and sheltering
for the larger purpose of God.**

One: Go—as pearl merchant and treasure seeker

All: **pouring out our days in search of the inbreaking of God's life in the world.**

***Benediction**

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

Take Us As We Are, O God

***Postlude**

Postlude on "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

Lawrence A. James

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



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God of the Fertile Fields

714



1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.

TEXT: Georgia Harkness, 1955, alt.

MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769, alt.

Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

ITALIAN HYMN

6.6.4.6.6.6.4

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.

God the Sculptor of the Mountains 5



1 God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains, God the
 2 God the nui - sance of the Pha - raoh, God the
 3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the
 4 God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant, God the



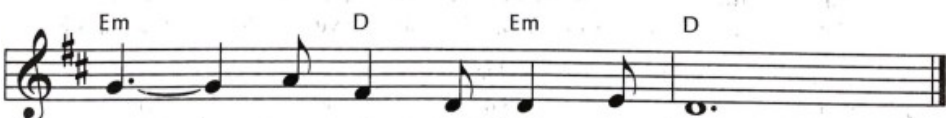
mill - er of the sand, God the jewel - er of the
 cleav - er of the sea, God the pil - lar in the
 plant - er of the wheat, God the reap - er of the
 calm, de - ter - mined youth, God the ta - ble - turn - ing



heav - ens, God the pot - ter of the land:
 dark - ness, God the bea - con of the free:
 har - vest, God the source of all we eat:
 proph - et, God the res - ur - rect - ed truth:



you are womb of all cre - a - tion;
 you are fount of all de - liv - erance;
 you are host at ev - ery ta - ble;
 you are pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment;



we are form - less; shape us now.
 we are aim - less; lead us now.
 we are hun - gry; feed us now.
 we are search - ing; meet us now.

Despite the great sweep of these stanzas, each one ends by describing how our human condition needs God's help: formless, aimless, hungry, searching. Each of these adjectives is followed by a related three-syllable petition: shape us now, lead us now, feed us now, meet us now.

TEXT: John Thornburg, 1993, alt.

MUSIC: Amanda Husberg, 1995

Text © 1993 John Thornburg

Music © 1996 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company)

JENNINGS-HOUSTON

8.7.8.7.8.7

What Is the World Like

771

Capo 1: (G) A^b (Em7) Fm7 (C) D^b (D) E^b

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

(Em) Fm (C) D^b (Am) B^bm (B7) C7

Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

(Em) Fm (Am) B^bm (D) E^b (G) A^b

roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

(C) D^b (Em7) Fm7 (Am7) B^bm7 (D) E^b (G) A^b

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text and tune were written to conclude a hymn festival at the 2009 Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Four parables framed both the festival and the hymn: the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Ten Bridesmaids.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2009
 MUSIC: Sally Ann Morris, 2009
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NEW WORLD
 10.10.10.10