



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 12, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.**

Prelude

Prelude in G
Mike Norman

Linley

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin III

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

All: Your word is our heritage forever, the joy of our hearts.

One: Let us worship God!

***Hymn (#451)**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Amanda Horan

***Prayer of Confession**

Patient and persistent God, we come, polished and presentable, to this comfortable room as if we knew what to expect, as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe.

Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations. In the mystery of your love, overshadow us. Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts until we bloom and spill with your passion to serve in a world that is wasting. (Silence)

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
The Spirit of God dwells in us.
If you hear nothing else today, hear these words: there is no condemnation.
All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

***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 119:105-112

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

Anthem

Tell Them
Vicki Norman

A. Crouch

Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

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

Sermon

Here, There, and Everywhere

Rev. R.C. Griffin III

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith**

from the *Barmen Declaration*

The Christian Church is the congregation of the siblings in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world.

So we reject the false doctrine, as though the church in human arrogance could place the Word and work of the Lord in the service of any arbitrarily chosen desires, purposes, and plans. Amen.

***Hymn (#510)**

We Gather Here in Jesus' Name

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

King of My Heart

McMillan/Kingsmore

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

Take Us As We Are, O God

***Prayer of Dedication**

One: Giver of life, we do not want the cares of the world and the lure of wealth to choke your word among us.

**All: As the sower casts seeds abundantly, hopefully, generously,
so we long to participate in your seeding of the world.**

One: Receive these gifts as tokens of our lives.

**All: Send your cultivating Spirit to work among us until we yield and grow
in grace, for we pray in the name of Jesus, who came out of love for the
world. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#458)**

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet

***Commissioning Youth & Adults to the Montreat Youth Conference**

***Charge & Benediction**

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

Take Us As We Are, O God

***Postlude**

Trust and Obey

Towner/Phillips

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



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Open My Eyes, That I May See 451



1 O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou hast for me.
2 O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send - est clear.
3 O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where.



Place in my hands the won - der - ful key that shall un - clasp and
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery - thing false will
O - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare love with thy chil - dren



set me free. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy
dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy
thus to share. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy



will to see. O - pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
will to see. O - pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
will to see. O - pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

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) (A)

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.

171 A Sower Came from Ancient Hills



1 A Sow - er came from an - cient hills and cast good
2 A Sow - er walked through - out the land and, ev - ery -
3 The Seed was bur - ied deep in death be - neath a
4 O Christ, you come a - mong us still, the Sow - er



seed a - broad: his field, ten thou - sand hu - man hearts; his
where he trod, he sowed his life be - cause he was him -
blood - red sky, and deep - er still was bur - ied hope for
and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in



seed, the word of God. And some who lis - tened would not
self the Seed of God. But then, a - top a bar - ren
those who watched him die. But then, in Jo - seph's gar - den
glow - ing word and deed, im - plant your Word in wait - ing



hear, and some who heard for - got. But some re - ceived in
hill, be - neath a dark - ening sky, they threw God's Seed on
fair, as dawn broke o'er the land, the Seed, from three days'
hearts, and let it there take hold, un - til it bears in



fer - tile soil the truth the Sow - er taught.
ston - y ground and left it there to die.
si - lent sleep, a - woke at God's com - mand!
fruit - ful lives a har - vest hun - dred - fold.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

All three synoptic gospels record both the telling and the explanation of Jesus' parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23/Mark 4:3-8, 14-20/Luke 8:5-8, 11-15). Because the seed equals "the word," Jesus (as the Word made flesh) becomes the Seed in this expansion of the parable.

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet 458

Refrain

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path. Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path. When I feel a-fraid, and I think I've lost my way, still you're there right be-side me. Noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

Fine *D7 to Refrain*

The refrain of this 20th-century song is a quotation of Psalm 119:105 in the King James Version. That longest of all psalms celebrates the gift of God's law by accumulating many synonyms for it. In Christian practice, this verse has been used to give thanks for all Scripture.

TEXT: Amy Grant, 1984

MUSIC: Michael W. Smith, 1984; arr. John Sharber

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THY WORD

Irregular