



# NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
October 16, 2022 - 11:00 a.m.

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin

## WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

### Call to Worship

One: No matter how far from God we seem to be, we do not lose heart:

**Many: For the days are surely coming, says the Lord.**

One: No matter how many obstacles we face in life, in the church,  
we do not lose heart:

**Many: For the days are surely coming, says the Lord.**

One: No matter how hard it is to continually pray and work for justice,  
we do not lose heart:

**All: For the days are surely coming, says the Lord,  
when I will forgive and restore my people;  
when I will equip them for every good work;  
and when I will grant justice,  
for I hear their cries day and night.  
So let us worship God!**

\*Hymn (#667)

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

## WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

**\*Call to Confession**

Amanda Horan

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we confess that we do not meditate on your commands and teachings all day long. We do not keep your word before us always and in all things. Instead, we turn away from your demanding truth and wander toward easier options. Forgive us, we pray, for pursuing our own desires rather than yours. Forgive us for growing weary in following you; for failing to pray and work tirelessly for justice; for losing hope in your power to transform the powers of this world. Tune our ears to the sound of your justice. Turn our hearts to your commandments and word of grace. Do not remember our sin, but remember your mercy forever. We pray in Christ's name. (Silence)

**\*Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: Friends, God promises to forgive us,  
to put our sins out of God's own mind and heart.  
In this way, God gives us not just a second chance  
but a new beginning. Believe the good news of the gospel:  
All: **Our salvation is through faith in Christ Jesus.**  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Congregational Response (#581)**

*Glory Be to the Father*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be  
World without end. Amen, amen.*

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Scripture Lesson**

**Jeremiah 31:27-34**

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

## Sharing Faith with God's Children

### Anthem

### Second Scripture Lesson

**Luke 18:1-8**

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

### Sermon

Don't Lose Heart

Rev. R.C. Griffin

## WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

### \*Affirmation of Faith

*From A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

### \*Hymn (#465)

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

### Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

### \*Congregational Response (#606)

*Doxology*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

**\*Responsive Prayer of Dedication**

One: Ever-giving God,  
we belong to you, and all that we have belongs to you,  
so with faith and hope, we offer ourselves along with these gifts.

All: **Use these offerings, even as you use us,  
in service of the justice you are establishing  
through your kingdom in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

**\*Hymn (#688)**

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

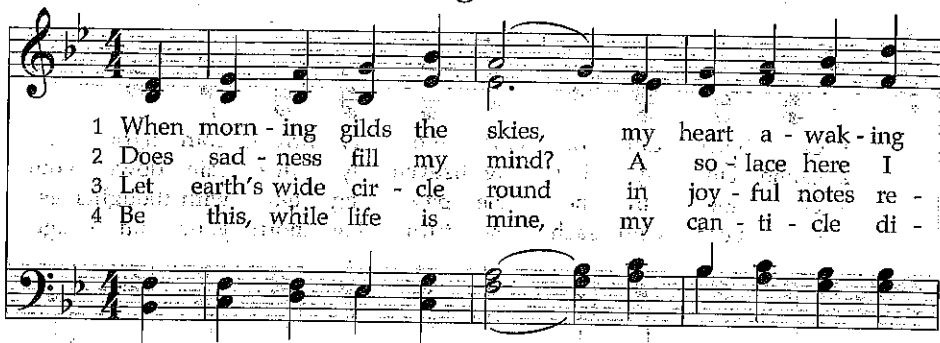
**\*Charge & Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

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



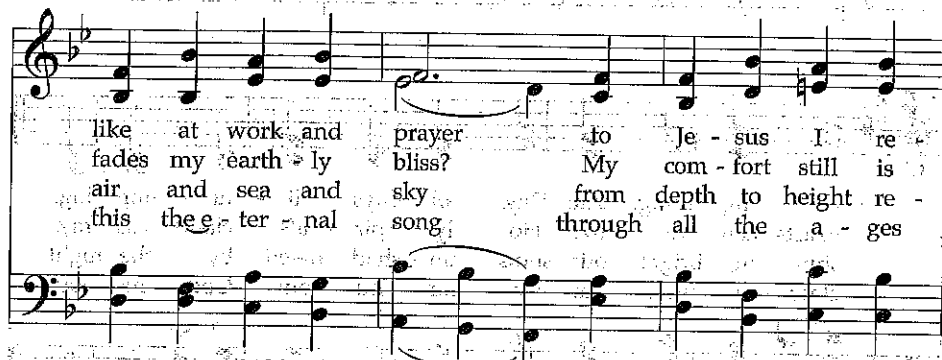
## 667 When Morning Gilds the Skies



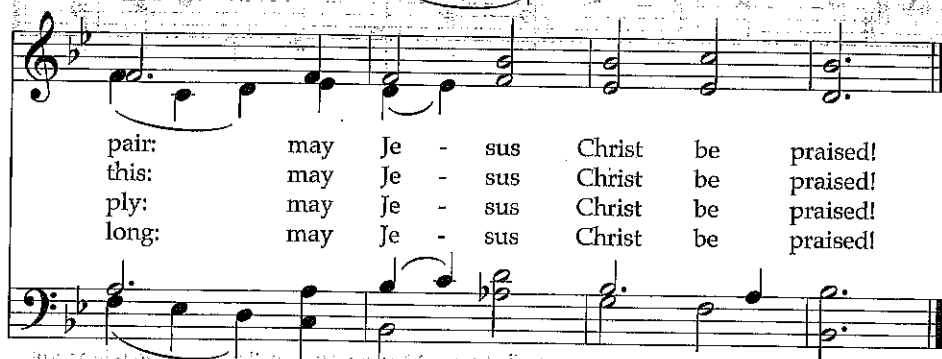
1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing  
 2 Does sad - ness fill my mind? A so - lace here I  
 3 Let earth's wide cir - cle round in joy - ful notes re -  
 4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di -



cries: may Je - sus Christ be praised! A  
 find: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or  
 sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let  
 vine: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be



like at work and prayer to Je - sus I re -  
 fades my earth - ly bliss? My com - fort still is  
 air and sea and sky from depth to height re -  
 this the e - ter - nal song through all the a - ges



pair: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 this: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 ply: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

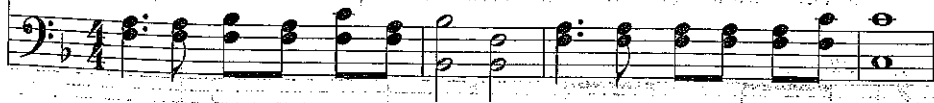
This is not just a morning hymn, though this excerpt from an English translation of an early 19th-century German text may not convey how thoroughly the original deals with different kinds of time throughout the day. The tune was composed as a setting for this English text.

## 465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

죄짐맡은 우리구주



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer!



O what peace we of - ten for - feit; O what need - less pain we bear,  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!




all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so - lace there.

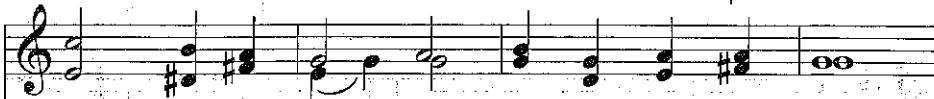


This text was written by an Irish-born immigrant to Canada to comfort his mother in Ireland, when she was going through a time of special sorrow. The role of prayer as a source of strength and consolation is underscored by its repeated use as a rhyme word in all three stanzas.


## Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart 688




1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2 I ask no dream, no - proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
 3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;  
 4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh.  
 5 Teach me to love thee as thine art - gels love,



wear it from earth; through all its puls - es move;  
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
 all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
 Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,  
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;



stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,  
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;  
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh.  
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,



and make me love thee as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!  
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.  
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.