



# NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
AUGUST 14, 2022 - 11:00 a.m.**

Words of Welcome

## WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses:

**Many: Let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,  
and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.**

One: Mindful of the gifts we receive  
and confident of the sustenance the Lord provides:

**All: Let us worship God!**

\*Hymn (#817)

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

## WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

\*Call to Confession

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

**God of hope,**

**We confess our disregard of your care . . .**

**our doubt of your providence . . .**

**our blindness to signs of your love.**

**We are afraid to risk our comforts to find new life;**

**we separate ourselves from you and from others**

**and foster divisions between those you love.**

**Help us to amend our lives and make us your faithful people**

**who bear the good fruit of your Word in the world.**

**Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (Silence)**

## **\*Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

**One:** God hears our confession, rejoicing as we desire amendment of life.

**Many:** **God lifts us from our despondency**

**to rejoice in the company of the saints.**

**One:** God acknowledges the forces that separate us, and brings us to peace.

**All:** **We rejoice in the knowledge of our reconciliation**

**and a life lived in the presence of God.**

## **\*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**

**Isaiah 5:1-7**

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

### **Sharing Faith with God's Children**

**Anthem**

**Second Scripture Lesson**

**Hebrews 11:29-12:2**

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

**Sermon**

Faith For What?

Rev. R.C. Griffin

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*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 is seated 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 (#730)**

*I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

**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:** We trust, O God, in your provision and loving kindness.

**All:** Use these gifts and our lives

**that we might bear your fruit with praise and thanksgiving.**

**We ask this in the confidence of your mercy and love. Amen.**

## WE DEPART TO SERVE

\*Hymn (#846)

*Fight the Good Fight*

\*Charge & Benediction

\*Postlude

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

### Clara Jane Privette

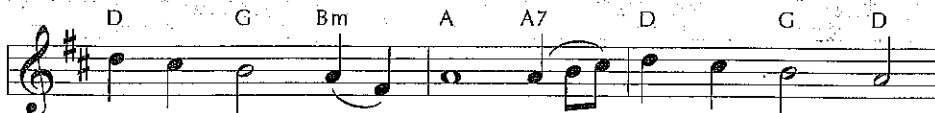
The rose on the pulpit celebrates the birth of Clara Jane ("CJ") Privette, daughter of Curtis and Sarah Privette, who was born Saturday, August 6.



## 817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
 we re - jice and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near and seek where you are found.  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

## I Sing a Song of the Saints of God 730



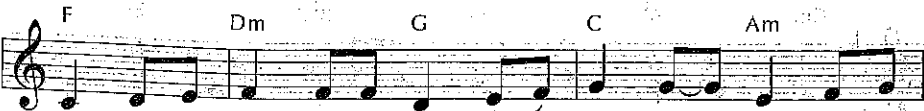
1 I sing a song of the saints of God, pa - tient and  
 2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and God's love  
 3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past; there are hun - dreds of



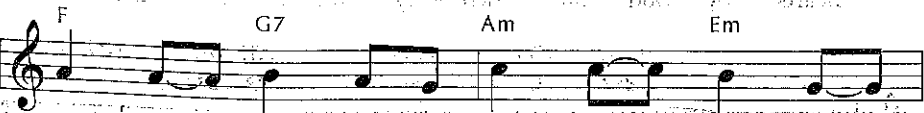
brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and  
 made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for Je - sus'  
 thou - sands still; the world is bright with the joy - ous



died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a  
 sake, the whole of their good lives long. And one was a  
 saints who love to do Je - sus' will. You can meet them in



doc - tor; and one was a queen, and one was a shep - herd - ess  
 sol - dier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a  
 school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in



on the green: they were all of them saints of  
 fierce wild beast; and there's not an - y rea - son,  
 shops, or at tea; for the saints of God are just



God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.  
 no, not the least, why I should - n't be one too.  
 folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Despite the quaintness of some of the language in this text, it has an important message to communicate about the down-to-earth ordinariness of the holy people of God at all times and places. The tune name honors the island in Vermont's Lake Champlain where the composer lived.

## Fight the Good Fight

846

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.  
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;  
 3 Cast care a - side; lean on thy guide.  
 4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.  
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.  
 God's bound-less mer - cy will pro - vide.  
 God chang - eth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;  
 Trust, and thy trust - ing soul shall prove  
 On - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.  
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.  
 that Christ is all in all to thee.

The opening phrase here (based on 1 Timothy 6:12) is not a military image but an athletic one, from a Greek verb meaning "struggle" or "grapple" or "wrestle." The sports context continues in later stanzas reflecting the experience of a runner (recalling Hebrews 12:1-2).