



# NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • BAPTISM OF THE LORD**  
**January 8, 2023 - 11:00 a.m.**

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin

## WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

### Call to Worship

- One: In the beginning, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.  
**Many: In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.**  
One: God caused the waters to part so that Israel could  
cross from slavery to liberation.  
**Many: God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary's womb.**  
One: Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water.  
**Many: Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman,  
the first person to recognize that he was the Christ.**  
One: Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.  
**All: God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn in a large family. Praise be!**

\*Hymn (#320)

*The Church of Christ in Every Age*

## WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

**\*Call to Confession**

Rev. Amanda Horan

**\*Prayer of Confession**

God, you show no partiality, yet we are not always as tolerant and accepting. Forgive our intolerance, and help us to see as you see, that we may be found acceptable in your sight through Jesus our Christ. (Silence)

**\*Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

**One:** God forgives all our sins and promises to bring us to everlasting life, so let us declare the good news of the gospel:

**All:** In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia! 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**

Isaiah 42:1-9

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

**Sharing Faith with God's Children**

**Anthem**

**Second Scripture Lesson**

Matthew 3:13-17

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

**Sermon**

My Servant

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 (#164) *Down Galilee's Slow Roadways*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

### \*Congregational Response (#607)

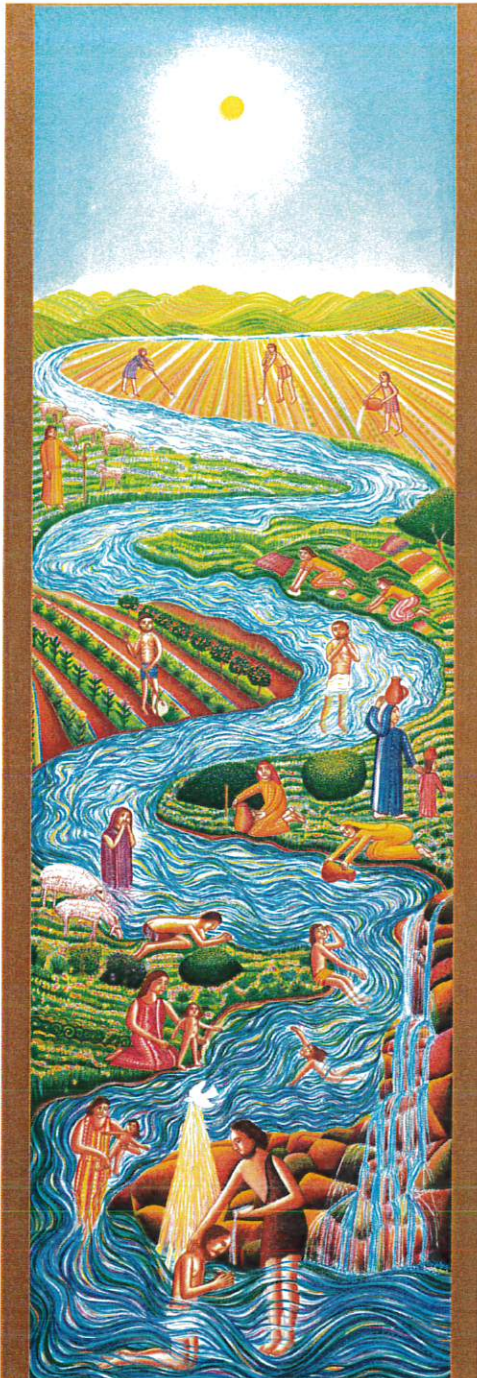
*Doxology*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*praise Christ, all people here below.*

*praise Holy Spirit, evermore;*

*praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*



John August Swanson, *River*

**\*Responsive Prayer of Dedication**

One: Great, saving God, you have gathered us into one baptism,  
regardless of our backgrounds and conditions.

All: **Therefore we praise you with our tithes and offerings.  
May they join with others to become a mighty river,  
bringing your peace and healing to the world. Amen.**

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

**\*Hymn (#480)**

*Take Me to the Water*

**\*Charge & Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction**

*The Work of Christmas*

*When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:*

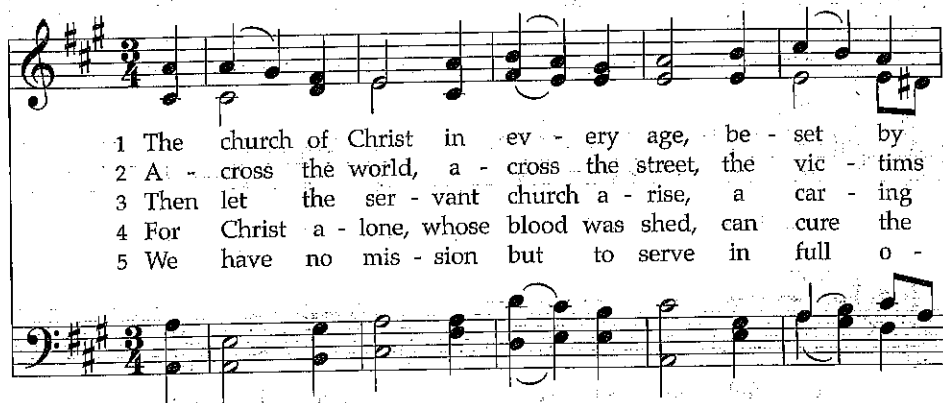
*To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart.*

**\*Postlude**

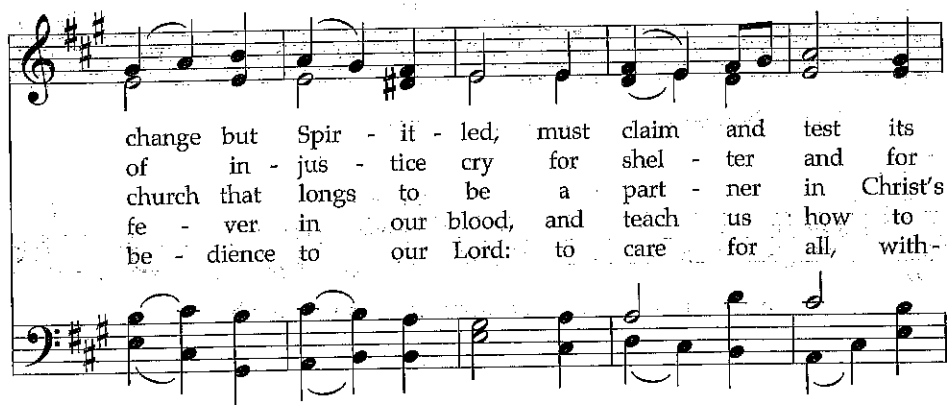
**\*Please rise, in body or spirit.**



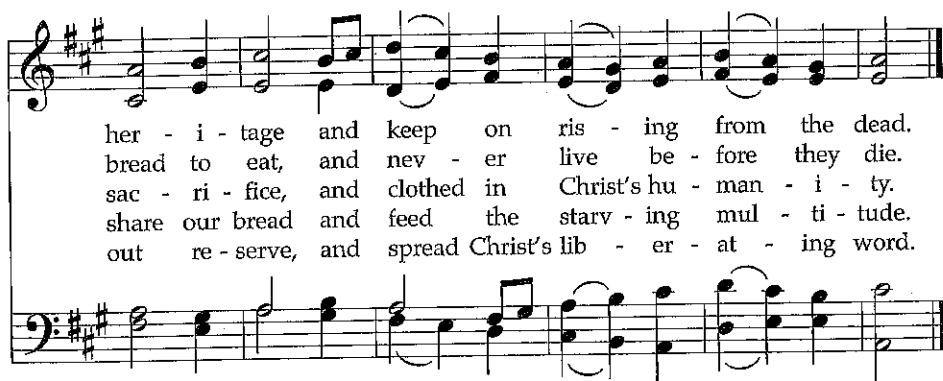
## 320 The Church of Christ in Every Age



1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by  
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
 4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
 be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
 out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

# Down Galilee's Slow Roadways 164

Capo 3: (A9) (D/A) (A9) (Dsus)(D)  
 C9 F/C C9 Fsus F

1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road-ways a strang-er trav-eled on  
 2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav-ens torn;  
 3 We too have found a road-way; it led us to this place.

(A9) (D/A) (G) (F#m)  
 C9 F/C Bb Am

from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John.  
 it seemed the sky so o - pen re-vealed the Spir - it's form.  
 We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.

(Bm) (F#m) (Gmaj7) (F#m7) (Em) (A/C#)(Bsus)(Bm)  
 Dm Am Bbmaj7 Am7 Gm C/E Dsus Dm

He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,  
 The ho - ly dove de-scend-ed a - mid a glo - rious voice;  
 But now be - side this wa - ter a gain a voice is heard.

(G) (D/F#) (Em7) (G/A) (Asus)(A7) (D)  
 Bb F/A Gm7 Bb/C Csus C7 F

but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.  
 "You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."  
 "You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

When reviewing baptismal resources with other members of the United Church of Canada's Working Unit on Worship, the author was struck by how few hymns had been written for adult baptism. This meditative text on the Baptism of Jesus is an effort to remedy that situation.

## Take Me to the Water

1 Take me to the wa - ter.      Take me to the wa -  
 2 I love Je - sus.              I love Je -  
 3 He's my Sav - ior.            He's my Sav -  
 4 Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah.      Glo - ry hal - le - lu -

ter. Take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.  
 sus. I love Je - sus, yes, I do.  
 ior. He's my Sav - ior, yes, he is.  
 jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

This African American spiritual sums up the commitment of a candidate for baptism: the request for the rite, an expression of motivation, and a succinct affirmation of faith. The widening melodic lines build anticipation and give weight to the final phrase of each stanza.