



# NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

## A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • CONFIRMATION SUNDAY February 5, 2023 - 11:00 a.m.

Words of Welcome

Rev. Amanda Horan

### WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

#### Call to Worship

One: We are called to the work of Israel, to the work of Jesus.

**Many: We are called to spread God's love in this world.**

One: We can do this work, as we are, because of the Holy Spirit.

**Many: By God's grace, we are salt.**

One: We purify, we cleanse, we bind, we bring out the best in people.

**Many: By God's grace, we are light.**

One: We allow things to be seen as they are. We point to holiness.

**Many: By God's grace, we follow the commandments and the law.**

One: We love the Lord our God and our neighbors as ourselves.

**All: By God's grace, we are salt. We are light. God transforms us and uses us.  
Let us worship our God, so full of transformative grace.**

\*Hymn (#401)

*Gather Us In*

## WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

**\*Call to Confession**

Rev. R.C. Griffin

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, you have called us to bring out the best in the world around us, to be bold in our faith, to share your love with those around us. We have failed your command. We choose conflict. We choose laziness. We choose excuses. Forgive us for rejecting the identity that you offer us freely, for rejecting the work of your Holy Spirit in our hearts. (Silence)

**\*Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: Even when we fail, even when we are not perfect, God still claims us.

God still calls us by name.

God still places God's Spirit upon us.

All: **We are known and loved and forgiven. Amen.**

**\*Sharing a Sign of Christ's Peace**

**\*Congregational Response (#582, v. 1)**

*Glory to God,*

*Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Scripture Lesson**

Isaiah 58: 1-12

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

**Sharing Faith with God's Children**

**Anthem**

**Second Scripture Lesson**

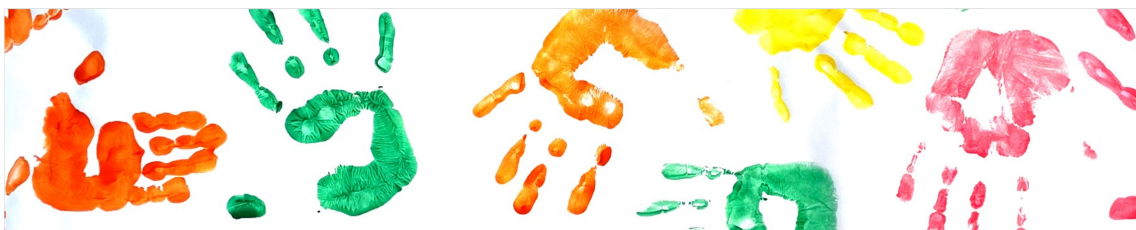
Matthew 5:13-20

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

**Sermon**

Commissioned to Change the World

Rev. Amanda Horan



**WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH**

**Confirmation Liturgy**

**\*Call to Discipleship**

*Matthew 25:34-40*

Ruling Elder Polly E. Pruitt

One: Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Many: **Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"**

One: And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

**\*Hymn (See Insert)**

*Jesus, Be With Us Today*

**Laying on of Hands**

**Prayer for Strengthening in the Spirit**

**Anointing with Oil**

**Placing the Stoles**

**Blessing and Charge to Confirmands**

**\*Hymn of Response (#288)**

*Spirit of the Living God*

**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.*

**\*Responsive Prayer of Dedication**

**One:** Heavenly Parent, we offer you these gifts. Please bless them, just as you  
bless those who gave them and those who will receive them.

**All:** **May the sharing of these gifts remind us of the connections that hold us all  
together and the beloved community you call us to form. Amen.**

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

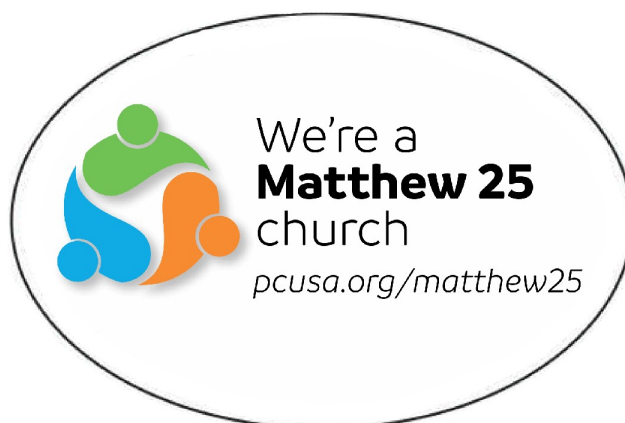
**\*Hymn (#700)**

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

**\*Charge & Benediction**

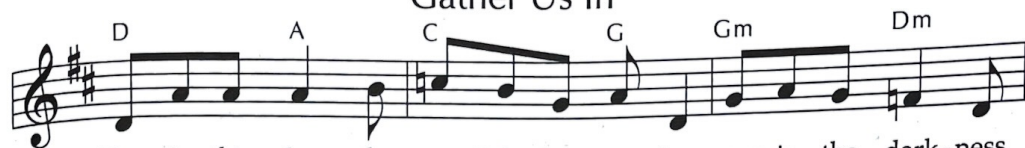
**\*Postlude**

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

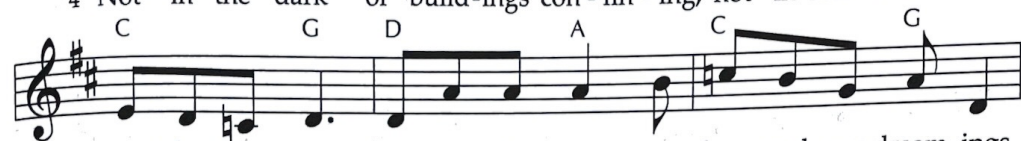


## Here in This Place

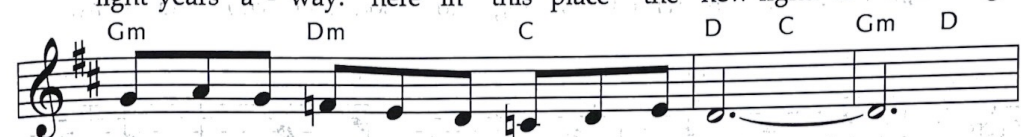
## Gather Us In



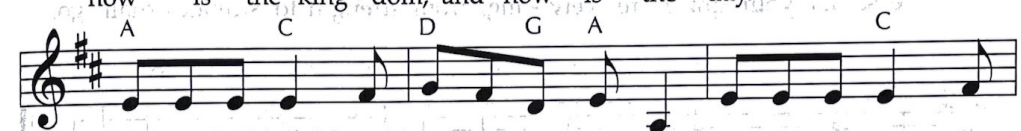
1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

Swing!  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}^3 \text{♪}$

# Jesus, Be with Us

*A hymn for Matthew 25 churches in the PC(USA)*

$E_b$   $Cm$   $Fm$   $B_b$   $E_b$   $E_b$

*Refrain* Je - sus, be with us. Help us each day to fol - low the

$Cm$   $F7$   $B_b$   $A_b$   $G7$

gos - pel and live as we pray. Send us your Spir - it and

$Cm$   $F7$   $Fm$   $B_b$   $Ebsus$   $E_b$

show us your way. Je - sus, be with us to - day.

$Cm$   $Gm$   $Fm$   $E_b$

*Leader* 1 Where there is hun - ger and thirst in the land,  
*or all* 2 Where there is ha - tred be - cause of our skin,  
 3 Where there are val - leys of bones, dry as dust,

$Cm$   $Fm$   $Gsus$   $G7$

shat - ter the sys - tems of greed.  
break down the walls of our fear.  
build up the bod - y of Christ.

$Cm$   $Gm$   $B_b$   $E_b$

Je - sus, be with us; make use of our hands.  
Je - sus, be with us; to save us from sin.  
Je - sus, be with us, and help us to trust.

$F7$   $F7$   $Bbsus$   $B_b7$

Lift up your peo - ple in need.  
In your great love, draw us near.  
Teach us a new way of life.

## Spirit of the Living God

288

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

## KOREAN

살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서  
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서  
 빛으시고 채우소서  
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서

## SPANISH

*Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.  
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.  
 Tóname, cámbiame, lléname, úsame.  
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.*

Both the words and the music of this prayer-song were written by a Presbyterian minister from Tarboro, North Carolina. The words were initially inspired by Jeremiah 18:1-6; a friend helped him set them to music during an evangelistic meeting in Orlando, Florida, where the song was first sung.

# 700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)  
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so)  
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)  
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, an - y - time!  
 (an - y - time!)  
 I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)  
 work so (work so)  
 pray so (pray so)  
 sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, an - y - time!  
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)  
 (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.