



# NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT  
February 25, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. R.C. Griffin

## **WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE**

### **Call to Worship**

**One:** Let us not be ashamed of our Savior.

Let us sing and praise our God out loud.

**Many:** **In the midst of the crowd, we will praise you.**

**In our community, we will bear witness to our faith.**

**One:** Let us set our minds on divine things.

**All:** **Let us take up our cross and follow Christ.**

**\*Hymn (#49)**

*The God of Abraham Praise*

## **WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE**

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we have not been sincere Christians. We claim to follow Jesus but have not taken his path of sacrificial love. We profess to be disciples, but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship. We affirm the virtue of self-denial, but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for sincere repentance through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Sung Reflection (#576, sing 2x followed by silence)**

*Lord, Have Mercy*

*Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy on us.*

**\*Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: Let us declare the good news of the gospel:

**All: God does not forsake us. Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love. We believe that in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Let us be at peace. Amen.**

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

**\*Congregational Response (#447)**

*We Are Forgiven*

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Scripture Lesson**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

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

**Anthem**

**Second Scripture Lesson**

Mark 8:31-38

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

**Sermon**

Lose Yourself

Rev. R.C. Griffin



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

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

*From A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

### **\*Hymn (#320)**

*The Church of Christ in Every Age*

**Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer**

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

### **\*Congregational Response (#607, alt. tune #606)**

*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: Almighty God, we thank you for the covenant you established with Abraham and Sarah,  
which you have opened to us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives,  
that we may be for the world a sign of your abiding love  
and a testament to your enduring promise.  
In Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, all honor  
and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **WE DEPART TO SERVE**

**\*Hymn (#726)**

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

**\*Charge & Benediction**

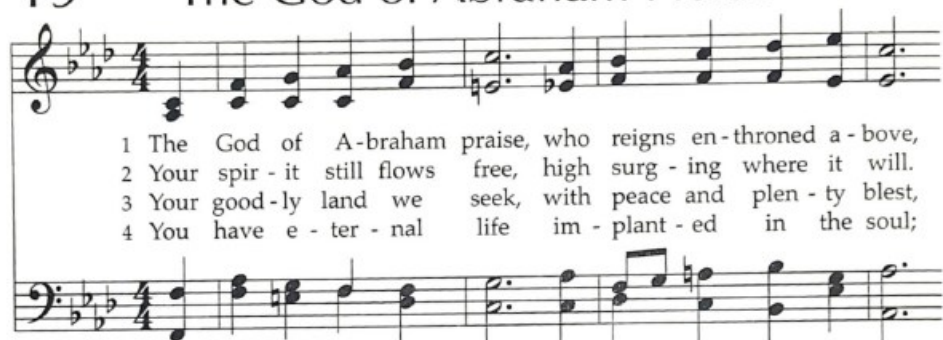
**\*Postlude**

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

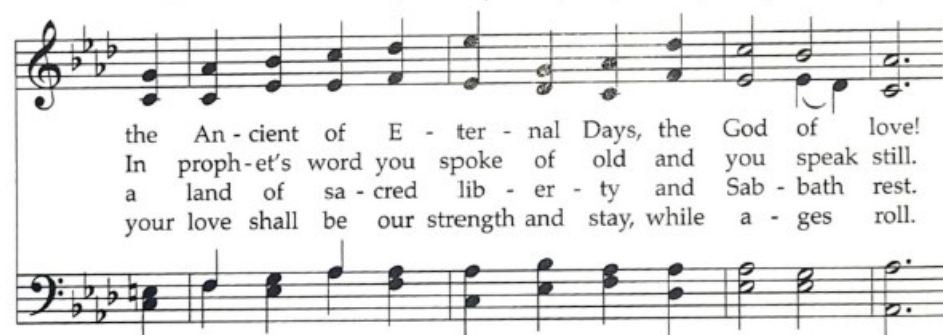


Scan for bulletin info,  
news, and more!

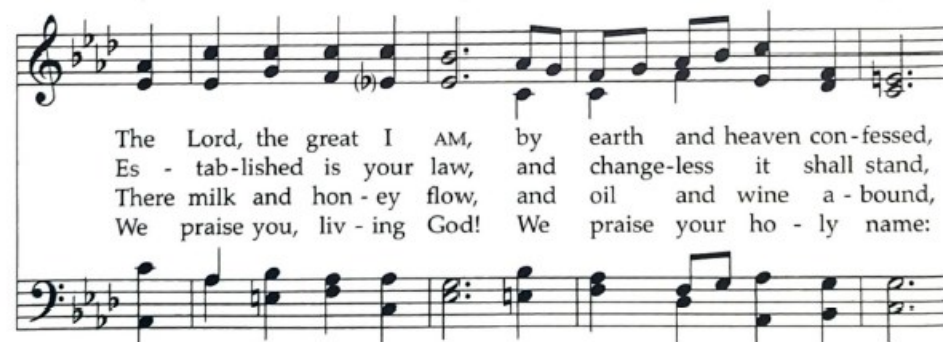
# 49 The God of Abraham Praise



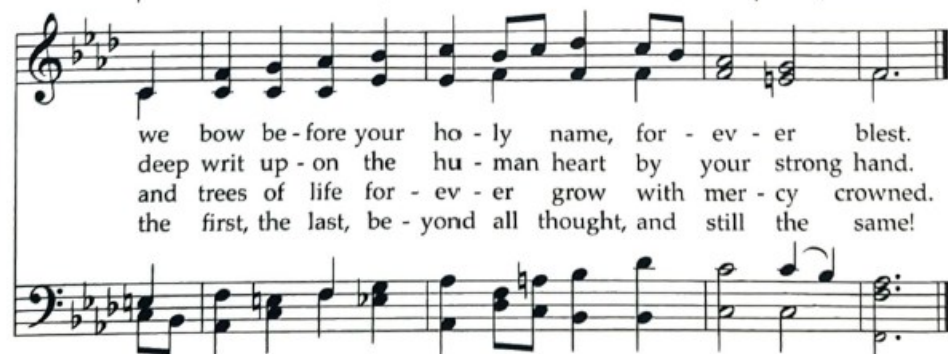
1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,  
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.  
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,  
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;



the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!  
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.  
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.  
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,  
 Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,  
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,  
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:



we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.  
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.  
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.  
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

576

# Lord, Have Mercy



Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: Swee Hong Lim, 1990

Music © 1990 Swee Hong Lim (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBCMusik)

SINGAPURA

447

## We Are Forgiven

G Am D7 Gsus G C  
 We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to  
 G Am7 Dsus D G Am  
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.  
 D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G  
 We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995  
 Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN  
 10.8.10.8



## 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.



607

# Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people

TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988  
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551  
Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg

OLD HUNDREDTH  
LM

here below; praise Holy Spirit ever more;

praise Tri-une God, whom we adore. Amen.

# 726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F<sup>#</sup>m7) (G) (Asus) (A)  
 Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> Am7 B<sup>b</sup> Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known:  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot - steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"  
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"  
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.