



# NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
March 3, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.**

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin

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

### **Call to Worship**

One: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

**Many: The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.**

One: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

**Many: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.**

One: The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**All: They are more desirable than gold and sweeter than honey.**

**Let us worship God!**

**\*Hymn (#20)**

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

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

**\*Call to Confession**

Rev. Amanda Horan

**\*Prayer of Confession**

God of righteousness, we confess that we have not kept your commandments. We bow down before idols, declaring our allegiance to other powers and principalities. We take your name in vain, using it to justify our own prejudices and opinions. We do not make adequate time to rest and remember your goodness, nor to revel in the delight of family and friends. We look the other way in the face of violence and oppression, misogyny and sexual assault, land grabs and unjust economic practices. Our dishonesty and greed get the better of us. Yet you gave us commandments not for condemnation, but so that we might live in justice and joy. Purify us by your righteousness and enfold us in your grace. Sanctify our intentions and actions, that our lives may begin to reflect your Beloved Community.

**\*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: Hear these words from the Apostle Paul, "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength."  
The grace of Christ is sufficient for us.

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

**\*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**

John 2:13-22

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

**Anthem**

**Second Scripture Lesson**

Exodus 20:1-17

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

**Sermon**

Rev. R.C. Griffin



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

**Capital Campaign Commissioning**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*Adapted from *The Confession of 1967**

**God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes our natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. God wills that God's purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ, and all evil be banished from God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.**

**\*Hymn (#5)**

*God the Sculptor of the Mountains*

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

### Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Karolen Bowman

#### \*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: O Lord our God, we want to follow all your commandments—

**All: To love only you, not worshiping the things of this world; to love our neighbor freely, not desiring for ourselves something they possess.**

**Accept these offerings, we pray, and teach us to be generous, giving fully of ourselves that we may truly be the body of Christ in this world.  
Amen.**

## WE DEPART TO SERVE

#### \*Hymn (#432)

*How Clear Is Our Vocation Lord*

#### \*Charge & Benediction

#### \*Postlude

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



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# 20 All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

all things wise and won-der - ful, the Lord God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
 2 The pur - ple-head-ed moun-tain, the riv - er run-ning by,  
 3 The cold wind in the win-ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,  
 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

God made their glow-ing col - ors; God made their ti - ny wings,  
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky;  
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one  
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well

*One of a series of hymns the author wrote for children on the Apostles' Creed, this text (originally in seven stanzas) expands "Maker of heaven and earth." The first stanza became the refrain when the text was later set to a popular tune from the age of King Charles II.*

1871 Cecil Frances Alexander, 1840, alt.

MUSM English melody, 17th cent., adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915; Hymn: *The Hymnbook*, 1955.

Music Hymn © 1955; rev. 1981 John Fildes (ed.), Westminster John Knox Press.

RICHARD CARR  
 ♯ 6 ♯ 6 with optional

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



# God the Sculptor of the Mountains 5



1 God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains, God the  
 2 God the nui - sance of the Pha - raoh, God the  
 3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the  
 4 God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant, God the



mill - er of the sand, God the jewel - er of the  
 cleav - er of the sea, God the pil - lar in the  
 plant - er of the wheat, God the reap - er of the  
 calm, de - ter - mined youth, God the ta - ble - turn - ing



heav - ens, God the pot - ter of the land:  
 dark - ness, God the bea - con of the free:  
 har - vest, God the source of all we eat:  
 proph - et, God the res - ur - rect - ed truth:



you are womb of all cre - a - tion;  
 you are fount of all de - liv - erance;  
 you are host at ev - ery ta - ble;  
 you are pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment;



we are form - less; shape us now.  
 we are aim - less; lead us now.  
 we are hun - gry; feed us now.  
 we are search - ing; meet us now.

Despite the great sweep of these stanzas, each one ends by describing how our human condition needs God's help: formless, aimless, hungry, searching. Each of these adjectives is followed by a related three-syllable petition: shape us now, lead us now, feed us now, meet us now.



607

# Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple

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


OLD HUNDREDTH  
LM

here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;

praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

# How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord 432

Capo 1: (D) E<sup>b</sup> (A) B<sup>b</sup> (Bm) Cm (G) A<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup> (A)(D) B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>




1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call  
 2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be - came in hin - dranc - es more sure:  
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,

(G) A<sup>b</sup> (Em) Fm (A) B<sup>b</sup> (F#m) Gm (Bm) Cm (G) A<sup>b</sup> (Em) Fm



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re -  
 if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un -  
 whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your  
 in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to

(A7) B<sup>b</sup>7 (D) E<sup>b</sup> (A7)(B) B<sup>b</sup>7 C (Em) Fm (G)(A7) A<sup>b</sup> (D) B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup>



stored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.  
 wind its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.  
 name, and by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure.  
 you: the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored, done.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This reflection on Christian vocation was written to provide a new text for a pre-existing tune, and the poet has crafted his words so well that the two parts mesh smoothly. The tune is named for a noted British boarding school, whose music director was a friend of the composer.