



# NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**March 17, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Prelude**

Ah, Holy Jesus  
NWPC Handbell Choir

arr. Karissa Dennis

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. R.C. Griffin

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

### **Call to Worship**

**One:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;

**Many:** **According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.**

**One:** You desire truth in our deepest selves, so teach our hearts wisdom.

**Many:** **Let us hear your joy and gladness;**  
**let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

**One:** Create in us clean hearts, O God; put new and right spirits within us.

**All:** **Sustain in us willing spirits and restore us to the joy of your salvation.**  
**Let us worship God!**

**\*Hymn (#404)**

*What Is This Place*

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

**\*Call to Confession**

Rev. Amanda Horan

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Living Christ, with whom we journey to the cross, we confess that we are always looking for an easier way. We long for the fullness of life with you, but we are slow to abandon the comforts of the life we know. We seek the fruit of new life, but we are not willing to die to ourselves. You call us to life in community, but we stubbornly cling to “me and mine.” Yet you offer the grace of life abundant, even and especially when our best efforts fall short. Transform us, renew us, and free us from our attachment to what was, so that you might bring us into the glory of what will be. In Jesus’ name we pray.

**\*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: Friends, hear the good news! We worship a God who forgives our iniquities and remembers our sins no more. Proclaim the good news with me:

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

Psalm 51:1-12

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

**Anthem**

What Wondrous Love Is This?

Arr. Oldham

NWPC Chancel Choir

**Second Scripture Lesson**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

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



**Sermon**

In the Coming Days

Rev. R.C. Griffin

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

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 1*

One: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**All: That we are not our own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. Because we belong to him, Christ, by the Holy Spirit, assures us of eternal life and makes us wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for God.**

**\*Hymn (#692)**

*Spirit, Open My Heart*

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

**Call to Generosity**

Kathryn Steele

**Offertory**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
NWPC Handbell Choir

arr. Karissa Dennis

**\*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.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, it is our joy to return the gifts of our lives to you. May our offering this morning forever bring glory to your name, and may we continue to work tirelessly for the well-being of your whole creation. Amen.

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

**\*Hymn (#421)**

*Have Mercy, God, upon My Life*

**\*Charge & Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

Wondrous Love

arr. Anthony Giamanco

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



scan for bulletin info,  
news, and more!

1 What is this place, where we are meet-ing? On - ly a house, the  
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing. Sparks that are sown in  
 3 And we ac - cept bread at his ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a

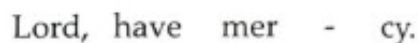
earth its floor. Walls and a roof, shel - ter - ing peo - ple, win-dows for  
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs, and won-ders sent from the  
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing, we are each

light, an o - pen door. Yet it be - comes a bod - y that  
 past are what we need. We in this place re - mem - ber and  
 oth - er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re -

lives when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.  
 speak a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem - ing word.  
 ceive what we need to in - crease: God's jus - tice and God's peace.

This text by a 20th-century Jesuit beautifully captures the fundamental truth that "church" is not primarily the building but the people who come together in order to be nourished by Word and Table so that they may show forth Christ's redeeming presence in the world.

# Lord, Have Mercy



SINGAPURA

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

447

## We Are Forgiven

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to  
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.  
 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



## Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)  
F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  C7

Refrain

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)  
Dm F/C B $\flat$  C7 Dm F/C Gm

liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)  
F B $\flat$  Gm7 F B $\flat$  F Fine

and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

(D) (G) (D) (G)  
F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's  
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my  
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)  
C7 Dm F/C B $\flat$  C7

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and  
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and  
sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (G2) (G)  
Dm Gm7 F B $\flat$ 2 B $\flat$  to Refrain

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.  
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.  
Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

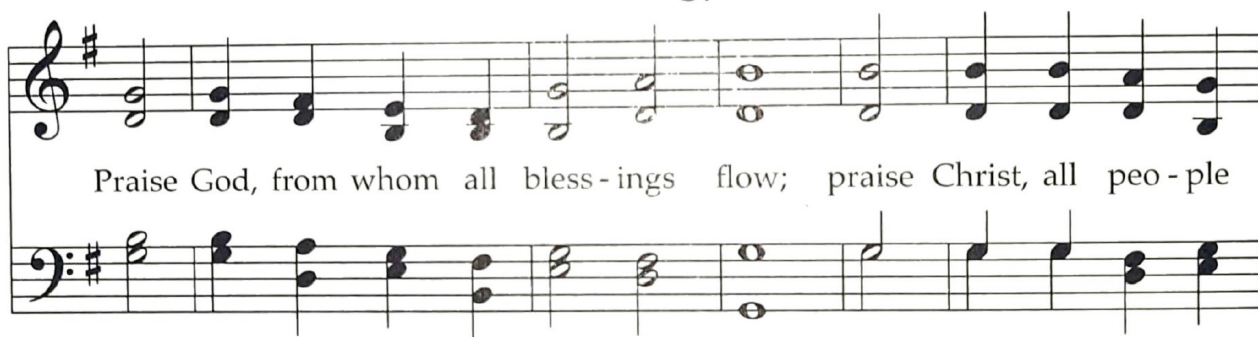
The pace and diversity of modern life often hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. This prayerful text to be open to such joys and pains draws on Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 in stanza one and echoes Jeremiah 31:33 in stanza two.



607

# Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

## Doxology



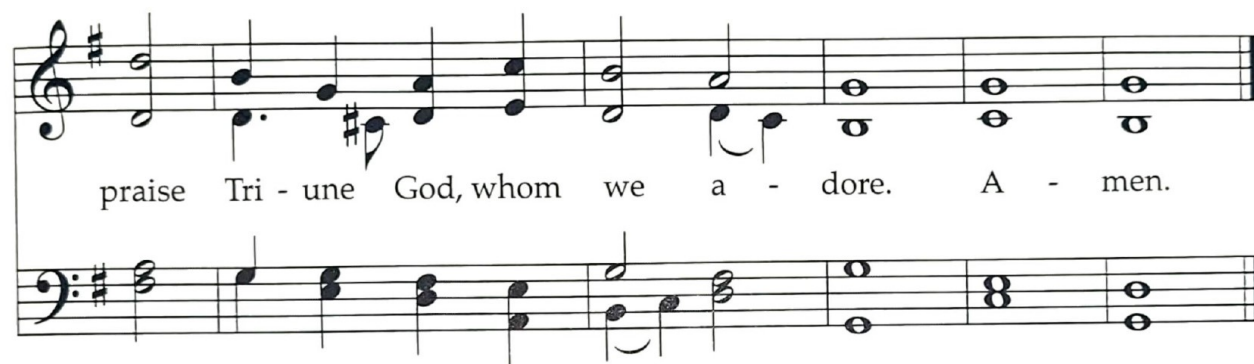
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple

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.

# Have Mercy, God, upon My Life 421

(Psalm 51)

1 Have mer - cy, God, up - on my life, and  
 2 My guilt is heav - y on my mind; I  
 3 Now teach me wis - dom in my soul; I  
 4 Cre - ate in me a faith - ful heart, a  
 5 Then I will praise you with my heart, my

make me clean with - in: pour out your ev - er -  
 know what I have done: a - gainst your jus - tice  
 long to see your face. Let bones, once bro - ken,  
 spir - it right and new. Sus - tain me with your  
 mind, my soul, my voice. You save the least and

faith - ful love and wash a - way my sin.  
 I have sinned, a - gainst you, God, a - lone.  
 sing with joy, and heal me by your grace.  
 sav - ing love and keep me close to you.  
 seek the lost; let all the world re - joice!

Psalm 51, paraphrased here, has traditionally been known as one of the seven penitential psalms, and it is used annually on Ash Wednesday. But this psalm is not just about human sinfulness; it is also about God's willingness to forgive and restore sinners. That is good news.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009

MUSIC: A Collection of Hymns and Sacred Poems, 1749

Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin: Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

IRISH  
CM