



*North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church*



**804 E Street, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659**

**336-667-1288      [www.nwpres.org](http://www.nwpres.org)**

**Facebook: North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church**

**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**March 7, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Welcome and Announcements**

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

**Call to Worship**

One: From water to wilderness:  
Many: **God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.**  
One: On stone and in hearts:  
Many: **God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.**  
One: From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:  
Many: **God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.**  
One: We follow Jesus on the Lenten path.  
All: **For where he is, we would be also.**

**\*Hymn (#24)**

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

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

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God,**

**How fickle we are; we sin against you without even knowing it.  
Clear us, we pray, of any unknown sin,  
and save us from willfully ignoring your way.  
Let your commandments rule and guide us.  
Forgive us for worshipping anyone or anything except you;  
keep us faithful.  
Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships –  
with those closest to us and those who are distant neighbors.  
Help us to speak words of blessing and kindness,  
rather than words that belittle or destroy.  
Turn us away from violence, falsehood, and selfishness.**

**Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power,  
for you are the God who made us, led us out slavery,  
and has brought us into the community of faith.  
Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace.  
In Christ's name we pray.**

**\*Silence for Personal Confession**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

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

**Sharing Faith with God's Children**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Lesson          Psalm 19; Exodus 20:1-17**  
*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Many: Thanks be to God.)*

**Sermon**

**Creation and the Law**

**Rev. R.C. Griffin**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH**

**Special Music**

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

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

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

# 24 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (Em) (Bm) (F#m)  
 F Dm Gm Dm Am

1 God, who stretched the span-gled heav-ens in-fi-  
 2 Proud-ly rise our mod-ern cit-ies, state-ly  
 3 We have ven-tured worlds un-dreamed of since the  
 4 As each far ho-ri-zon beck-ons, may it

(Em7) (G) (Bm) (A) (Bm) (A)  
 Cm7 Bb Dm C Dm C

nite in time and place, flung the suns in burn-ing  
 build-ings row on row. Yet their win-dows, blank, un-  
 child-hood of our race; known the ec-sta-sy of  
 chal-lenge us a new, chil-dren of cre-a-tive

(G) (F#m) (G) (A) (D)  
 Bb Am Bb C F

ra-diance through the si-lent fields of space,  
 feel-ing, stare on can-yoned streets be-low,  
 wing-ing through un-trav-eled realms of space;  
 pur-pose, serv-ing oth-ers, hon-oring you.

(D) (Bm7) (G) (Em7) (G) (F#m7)  
 F Dm7 Bb Gm7 Bb Am7

we, your chil-dren in your like-ness, share in-ven-tive  
 where the lone-ly drift un-noticed in the cit-y's  
 probed the se-crets of the at-om, yield-ing un-i-  
 May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise, each en-deav-or

The crux of this text comes in the second stanza: if we dare to claim God-given abilities, we need also to show God-like compassion for the human needs that confront us daily. The earthly shape note tune provides a further reminder that we must not lose our heads in the clouds.

(G) (Em7) (A) (D) (Bm) (A)  
 B<sup>b</sup> Gm7 C F Dm C

powers with you. Great Cre - a - tor, still cre -  
 ebb and flow, lost to pur - pose and to  
 mag - ined power, fac - ing us with life's de -  
 well be - gun. Great Cre - a - tor, give us

(Em7) (F#m) (G) (A) (D)  
 Gm7 Am B<sup>b</sup> C F

at - ing, show us what we yet may do.  
 mean - ing, scarce - ly car - ing where they go.  
 struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.  
 guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

## O Lord, Our God, How Excellent 25

(Psalm 8)

1 O Lord, our God, how ex - cel - lent, how glo - rious is your name.  
 2 The heav - ens shout your hand - i - work; we stand be - neath in awe,  
 3 Yet you have made us less than gods, sur - pass - ing all but you,  
 4 In - to our hands you've placed all things: the earth, the sea; each place  
 5 O Lord, our God, how ex - cel - lent, how glo - rious is your name,

Your maj - es - ty sur - rounds the earth, and chil - dren sing your fame.  
 to think the One who made all things should care for us at all  
 with heart and mind, with strength and will, to search for what is true.  
 we're called to probe for se - cret gifts and ven - ture in - to space.  
 ma - jes - tic in your ho - li - ness. We sing and praise your fame.

The middle stanzas of this paraphrase of Psalm 8 probe the ancient but enduring paradox of declaring the grandeur of God's creation while realizing how small mortals are in the midst of it all. These words are set to one of the most durable 18th-century English psalm tunes.