



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 15, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.**

Words of Welcome

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: Alleluia! Christ is alive; let all the people praise him!

Many: **Let creation sing with joy! Alleluia!**

One: Alleluia! Christ is alive; let us praise him!

All: **Let us worship God! Alleluia!**

*Hymn (#81)

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,

Your command to love one another across all differences opens us to new horizons,
yet we often respond with fear and judgment that hinders your goal for humanity.

Forgive our sins, we pray,
and give us a true repentance
that leads to life for all creation.
We pray in Jesus' name. (Silence)

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: God's promises are trustworthy and true!

All: Our sins are forgiven!

Let us be at peace to serve the Lord,
and may we always be known by our love.
Thanks be to God!

***Congregational Response (#240, Refrain)**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name. (Sing Twice)*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson

Revelation 21:1-6

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

Sharing Faith with God's Children

Anthem

Second Scripture Lesson

ACTS 11:1-18

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

Sermon

Even Them

Rev. R.C. Griffin

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead;

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn (#362)**

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

***Congregational Response (#606, Alternate Tune—#15)**

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

***Responsive Prayer of Dedication**

One: Loving God, we give you thanks
for the ministry of reconciliation to which you call us
in the name of Jesus Christ and his resurrection.
All: **Accept these gifts for your mission to heal all creation.
May they be a testament to your love for us
as we share them in love for you;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#374)**

O Holy City, Seen of John

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

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



We're a
Matthew 25
church

pcusa.org/matthew25

81 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken



1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.
 2 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
 3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,



God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.
 for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.



On the rock of a - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
 Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as - suage?

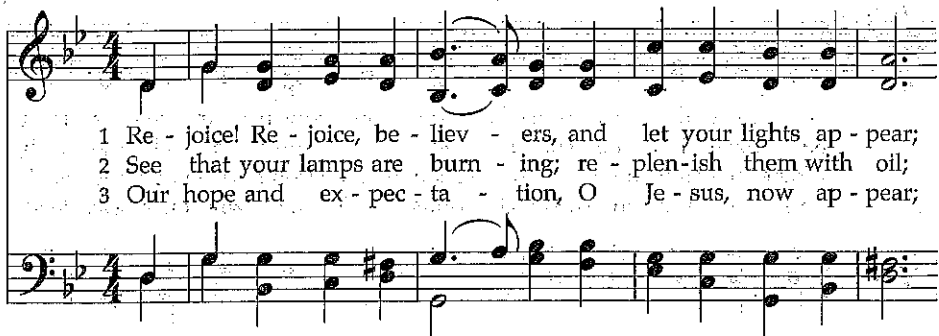


With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.
 Grace, so - like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.

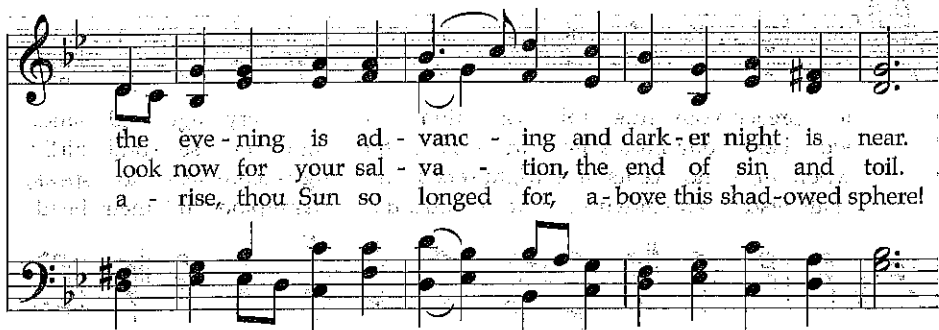


The Nazi appropriation of this tune for propaganda purposes has clouded a noble piece of music first associated with this text in 1889. In a 1779 collection, the author indicated that this hymn is primarily based on Isaiah 33:20-21 with allusions to several other passages.

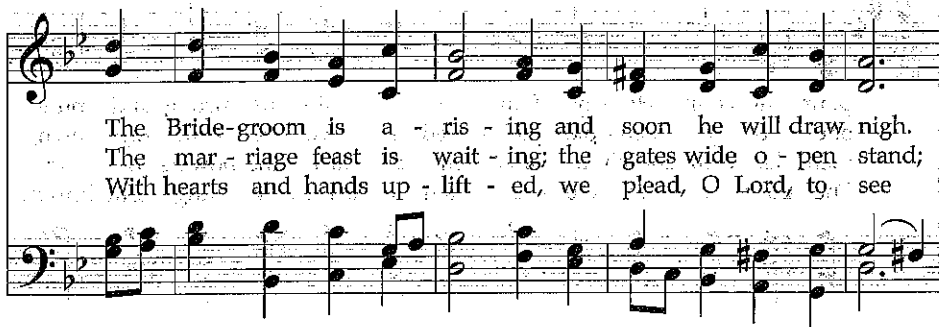
362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers



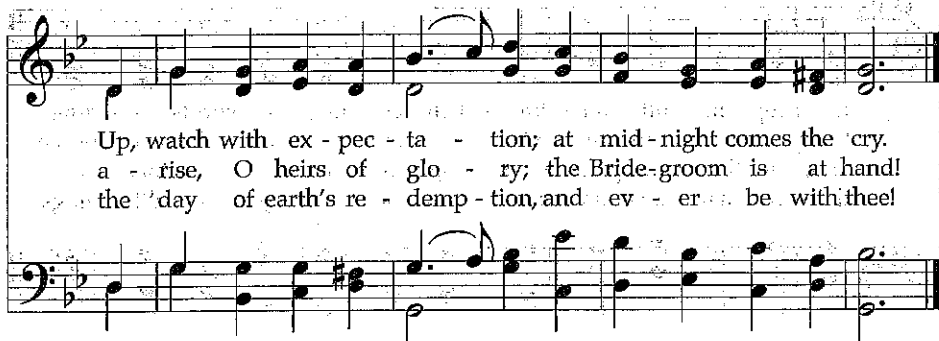
1 Re - joice! Re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen-ish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere!



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon he will draw nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, watch with ex - pec - ta - tion; at mid - night comes the cry.
 a - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride - groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

The Latin original of this text based on the parable of the wise and foolish maidens (Matthew 25:1-13) consisted of ten stanzas, but this briefer version is more appropriate for its message of urgency. It is set to a spirited minor Welsh tune named for a Pembrokeshire village.

O Holy City, Seen of John 374

1 O ho - ly cit - y, seen of John, where Christ, the
 2 O shame to us who rest con - tent while lust and
 3 Give us, O God, the strength to build the cit - y
 4 Al - read - y in the mind of God that cit - y

Lamb, does reign, with - in whose four-square walls shall come no
 greed for gain in street and shop and ten - e - ment wring
 that has stood too long a dream; whose laws are love, whose
 ris - es fair. Lo, how its splen - dor chal - len - ges the

night, nor need, nor pain, and where the tears are
 gold from hu - man pain, and bit - ter lips in
 ways are ser - vant - hood, and where the sun that
 souls that great - ly dare, and bids us seize the

wiped from eyes that shall not weep a - gain!
 deep de - spair cry, "Christ has died in vain!"
 shines be - comes your grace for hu - man good.
 whole of life and build its glo - ry there.

Unlike texts that treat the heavenly Jerusalem as a goal for the life to come, this hymn regards John's vision as a challenge to work here and now for the accomplishment of God's purposes on earth. The shape note tune provides an effective setting for this stirring text.