



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 24, 2022 - 11:00 a.m.

Words of Welcome

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: The Prophet Isaiah wrote, Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom!

Many: **My soul hates your worship mixed with your hypocrisy!**

Instead, learn to do good and seek justice:

rescue the oppressed, defend the orphans, and treat the widows fairly!

One: The Prophet Ezekiel wrote, Thus says the LORD, God of Israel:

Many: **This was the guilt of Sodom:**

**they were arrogant, they had prosperous ease and excess of food,
and yet they did not aid the poor and the needy.**

One: The Prophet Amos wrote: Thus says the LORD, hear this Word:

Many: **You who oppress the poor and crush the needy . . .**

I shall overthrow you as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

One: Matthew and Luke both report that, when Jesus sent the disciples out two-by-two to spread the good news, he said to them,

Many: **If any town does not show you hospitality,**

**shake the dust of that town off your sandals and leave—
it will be worse for them than it was for Sodom.**

One: God of Love and Justice,

turn our hearts toward doing good and seeking justice.

**All: Ignite us to rescue the oppressed, defend the orphans,
and help the widows, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

***Hymn (#435)**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

**Holy One, although we come to church on Sundays,
We too often live the rest of the week as though you don't exist.
We act as though we created ourselves,
with no connection to you,
with no hope of transcendence.
Open us to your constant presence, Holy One.
Teach us to pray, and restore our sight,
that we may commune with you each day in the light of eternity. (Silence)**

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: Let us declare the good news of God for us:

**All: Neither death nor life, powers nor rulers, things present nor future,
nor anything else in all creation
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
Therefore, we let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***Congregational Response (#581)**

Glory Be to the Father

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
World without end. Amen, amen.*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson

Genesis 18:20-32

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

Sharing Faith with God's Children

Anthem

Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 11:1-13

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

Sermon

Persistent Prayer for Peace

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 (#175)

Seek Ye First

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*Congregational Response (#606)

Doxology

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

***Responsive Prayer of Dedication**

One: Holy One, we give you thanks for your steadfast love and faithfulness.

All: **Bless these offerings and transform them into gifts of hospitality for those who need them most. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#753)**

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

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



435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures
 of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal
 which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more
 sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -
 where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al le lu ia,

and its righ - teous - ness,
 seek, and you shall find;
 but by ev - ery word

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4, emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis

D Bm A7 D Em A7

1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It

D Bm G Em A7

there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
 is in par-don-ing that we are par-doned, in

Em A7 Em7 A7

there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord, and
 there is dark-ness, on - ly light, and
 giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, and in

Em A7 D 1 2, 4 (Fine)

where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.
 dy - ing that we're born to e-ter - nal life.

G Em D Bm

3 O, Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so

Em A7 D A7 D D7

much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Though popular opinion credits this prayer to Francis of Assisi, the earliest known printing was in a French religious magazine in 1912. Yet that gentle saint's spirit seems evident in these words, a quality that has spurred many paraphrases and musical settings such as this one.