

# THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

### Chiming of the Hour

### Preparation for Worship

#### Prelude

*Wade in the Water*

Spiritual  
arranged by Chuck Marohnic

#### \* Call to Worship Lia Scholl

We gather together in the name of the One who bids us come.

**We gather together to hear the words of the One who is Love.**

We gather together to sing praises of the One who teaches peace.

**Come, let us worship!**

#### \* Hymn of Praise No. 530

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

*I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.*

*I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.*

*I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul.*

#### \* Prayer of Praise Sara and Paul Sinal

### Welcome and Passing the Peace

#### \* Gathering Music

*All Are Welcome*

words and arrangement by Marty Haugen

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach be- yond the wood and. stone to—  
6  
17 heal and strenth- en, serve and teach, and. live the Word they've known. Here the out-cast and the  
16 stran-ger bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
All are wel-come, all are wel-come, all are wel-come in this place.

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### Prayers of the People

#### Hymn of Offering No. 501

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

BALM IN GILEAD

*Ushers, please come forward in the final verse.*

### Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

#### \* Offertory Response

*Praise God whose dawn transfigures night*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God whose dawn transfigures night,  
whose Daystar shines for us on high.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Whose Spirit brings into our sight,  
the hope which to our world draws nigh.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!!*

*The children may exit to the Children's Room (107B) for playtime.*

#### \* Offertory Prayer

### Introduction to Our Sacred Text

#### Lesson from the Gospels

Luke 7:18-35, NLT

The disciples of John the Baptist told John about everything Jesus was doing. So John called for two of his disciples, and he sent them to the Lord to ask him, “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”

John’s two disciples found Jesus and said to him, “John the Baptist sent us to ask, ‘Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?’”

At that very time, Jesus cured many people of their diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits, and he restored sight to many who were blind. Then he told John’s disciples, “Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.” And he added, “God blesses those who do not fall away because of me.”

After John’s disciples left, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. “What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind? Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people who wear beautiful clothes and live in luxury are found in palaces. Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet. John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say,

‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
and he will prepare your way before you.’

I tell you, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of God is greater than he is!”

When they heard this, all the people—even the tax collectors—agreed that God’s way was right, for they had been baptized by John. But the Pharisees and experts in religious law rejected God’s plan for them, for they had refused John’s baptism.

“To what can I compare the people of this generation?” Jesus asked. “How can I describe them? They are like children playing a game in the public square. They complain to their friends,

‘We played wedding songs,  
and you didn’t dance,  
so we played funeral songs,  
and you didn’t weep.’

For John the Baptist didn’t spend his time eating bread or drinking wine, and you say, ‘He’s possessed by a demon.’ The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, ‘He’s a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’ But wisdom is shown to be right by the lives of those who follow it.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### Anthem

*All That I Am*

William Grant Still (1895-1978)

*All that I am, all I ever can be I owe to You, Lord, for You have molded me. All that I have, all that I call mine, I owe to You, Lord, for all things are Thine. You are the source of light: light that’s offered to all. In Your wisdom You give to each our due. You are the source of love: love that binds in brotherhood. In Your love and mercy I find lasting peace. All that I love, all that’s dear to me, all of my blessings come, my Lord, from Thee. All that I own, all that belongs to me, all I surrender, my Lord, to Thee.*  
~Verna Arvey

#### Sermon

*Seeking Wisdom*

Lia Scholl

#### \* Hymn of Commitment No. 673

*Down by the Riverside*

STUDY WAR NO MORE

*Gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside, down by the riverside;  
gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside,  
gonna study war no more. I ain’t gonna study war no more, ain’t  
gonna study war no more, ain’t gonna study war no more, aint gonna  
study war no more, ain’t gonna study war no more.*

*Gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside, down by the riverside;  
gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside,  
gonna study war no more, I ain’t gonna study war no more, ain’t  
gonna study war no more, ain’t gonna study war no more, aint gonna  
study war no more, ain’t gonna study war no more.*

*We invite you to commit your life to Christ as a disciple and to join our church as a member. You may also wish to reaffirm your faith in Christ or make other commitments. You are welcome to come forward at this time.*

#### \* Choral Benediction No. 442

*We Are Walking in the Light of God*

SIYAHAMBA

#### \* Benediction

#### Postlude

*Marching to Zion*

tune by Robert Lowery  
arranged by Tom Birchwood

*\*Please stand, whether in body or spirit.*

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

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### Sunday, February 12

- 11:00 Worship in Wait Chapel
- 12:00 Reception in Narthex
- 2:30 Congregational Care Council, Balcony Room

### Wednesday, February 15

- 10:00 Community Office Hours, Church Office
- 5:30 Wednesday Night Supper: BBQ

### Sunday, February 19

- 9:45 Sunday School Classes  
Godly Play  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 Worship in Wait Chapel, Carol Howard Merritt preaching
- 12:00 Reception in the Narthex
- 2:30 Administrative Council, Balcony Room

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Today** (as every second Sunday) we'll take a special offering for the hungry in Winston-Salem. We call it our "Beans! Beans!" offering and it is given to the New Communion Mobile Pantry, which is committed to providing nourishing food and being in relationship with those experiencing food insecurity and hunger in Winston-Salem. New Communion believes all are welcomed to God's table and no I.D. or paperwork will be required from those seeking access to food. Bring your beans. They're good for your heart!

**Wednesday night supper** this week will be BBQ from Little Richards. Check the box on your response card if you plan to join us!

**Next Sunday, Carol Howard Merritt**, author of the new book, *Healing Spiritual Wounds: Reconnecting with a Loving God After Experiencing a Hurtful Church* will be preaching. Carol is a minister whose writing, speaking, and teaching are anchored in theological wisdom and sociological insight. She's a sought-after keynote speaker, especially on the topic of ministering in a new generation, and the award-winning author of *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation* and *Reframing Hope: Vital Ministry in a New Generation*. Carol is a frequent contributor to books, websites, magazines, and journals. She is a regular writer at the *Christian Century* where her blog is hosted. Her new book will be available for purchase by check or credit card.

**College Students and Young Adults** are welcome to a pancake lunch after worship on the first Sunday of the month. Join us!

**Hearing Devices and Large Print Hymnals** are available. Talk with an usher if you need assistance. **Audio recordings** of the Worship Service are available on the church website. **Music and Lyrics** are reprinted with permission of OneLicense # A-719218.

**Before worship next Sunday**, we invite you to read the Gospel lesson Luke 7:36-50.



*Wake Forest Baptist Church is a progressive, welcoming and affirming Christian community committed to Jesus Christ. We value prophetic worship, thoughtful religious education, social justice, and peacemaking.*

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“Wisdom is proved  
right by all  
her children.”

Luke 7:35

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*FEBRUARY 12, 2017*