

## WORSHIP SERVICE PLAN

(Traditional & Online Service) (Green)

January 18, 2026 • Second Weekend in Ordinary Time • Ordination II

**John 1:29-42**

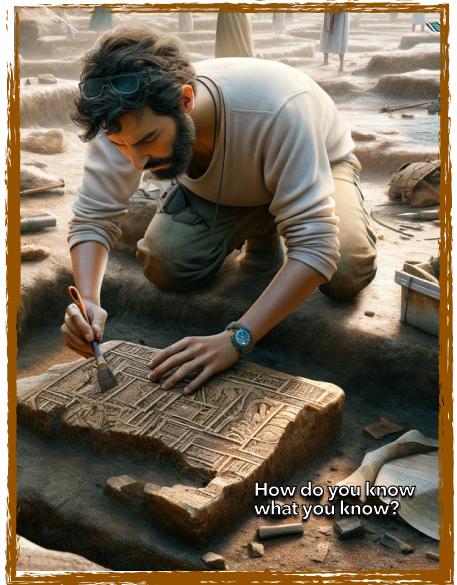
"Come and See"

Faith requires *healthy* curiosity.

### (online only) Preparation for Worship

Gather these items for worship. If an items unavailable, fret not:

- a piece of **green** cloth
- an end table or stand
- a plate
- a cup
- a glass or bowl with water
- a lighter/match
- a garden spade or shovel
- a computer or internet-accessible device
- a thank you card to God for something this week



For each item you have, thank God for the provision. For each piece you do not have, thank God you don't need it. Place the table/stand in the area you plan to worship. If more than one person will be present, place the table in the middle of where you will be seated. Drape the cloth over it. Arrange the cup, plate, glass of water, and other items on the table. Keep the Bible in front of you.

### Questions for the announcement loop

*In preparing for Worship, consider the following:*

- How do you know what you know? Who taught you how to accept or reject information?
- What do you imagine it is like for God to teach you something?
- How willing are you (really) to try something new?
- Do you think God's lessons should take you to predictable or unpredictable places?

### Opening Sentence

**John 1:38-39 (CEB)**

They said, "Rabbi (which is translated Teacher), where are you staying?"

He replied, "Come and see."

**Welcome to this service of Worship, We are glad you are with us! We have a few Community Notes for you to consider as we worship throughout the week...**

### Welcome Visitors!

We are glad you are here! Our nursery is in the Education Building and our restrooms are in the buildings other than this Sanctuary.

### Do Some Digging

Part of the challenge of archaeology is not just deciding where to dig, how to dig, or even to have an idea of what you're digging for (though all those things are true). Perhaps the biggest decision is what to do with what you DO find. Does what you find inform you or the other way around? This happens with our faith as well. Take courage and dig into your beliefs. Where did they really come from? Who taught you how to read the Bible? Who taught them? And where does God fit in your current disciple education plan? Where are you challenging what you know (or remember) in order to get closer to God? And do you recognize the difference between what you're looking for and what God may be trying to show you?

### Save the Date!

Our church by-laws and our Book of Order requires that we have an Annual Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to review the previous year (2025) and look ahead to the next. As a part of this meeting, the Administrative Life Committee wishes to help our understanding of how our finances work as well as introduce the operating budget for 2026. We will also review the Annual Report. In preparation for that, all committees and groups and affiliates are encourage to make submissions (pictures, articles, summaries) by

January 28th. You can make submissions by email ([info@hawfieldschurch.org](mailto:info@hawfieldschurch.org)), by mail (2115 South NC Hwy 119, Mebane), by phone (336-578-2811), or by text message (336-524-1234). As always, the last part of our agenda is acting on the terms of call for the Pastor. The Session has set Sunday, February 8th immediately following the morning worship service in the Sanctuary as the meeting time and place. Please make your submissions and plan to attend.

### **We Already Have to Talk about Lent**

Ash Wednesday is coming soon (February 18th). In preparation for the season of Lent and our theme, "Light for the Journey", we're in need of a few items if you have them to share. First, we will need mirrors of all shapes and sizes starting February 15th. Please mark the back of your mirror with your name and phone number if you share one with us. The second thing we need are your thoughts! As you are willing to share, take 5 minutes to gaze at yourself in the mirror (set a timer!) and then write a paragraph of what you think you see in the reflection. Your reflections can, of course, be anonymous and we won't share them without your express permission.

### **(10am only) Greet one another in Christ!**

### **(10am only) Gathering Song**

"He Came Down" GTG #137

He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love;  
Hallelujah forevermore. (2X)

### **(10am only) Prelude:**

"This Is My Father's World" arr. Cindy Berry

### **Faith requires healthy curiosity.**

In this moment, let us stand, take a deep breath, silence our devices, and continue in worship together, making use of the *Call to Worship* that is before you...

### **(10am only) Call to Worship**

*Even when we messed up in the Garden of Eden*

**God came looking for us**

*Even when we were enslaved in Egypt*

### **God found Moses for us**

*Even when we wanted your blessings all for ourselves*

### **God tried to explain redemption to us**

*Even when we determined to find our own version of a Messiah*

### **You sent Jesus to lead the way**

### **Sing:**

"Called As Partners in Christ's Service" GTG #761

### **Prayer of Confession/Preparation**

*We sometimes overlook the power of asking questions of our most cherished beliefs. It's not good that we do that. It's important to talk about our shortcomings so that we're ready to hear what God has to say. Let us begin with silent prayer...*

*(Please pray silently...)*

**Pray: Great God, we call you the Great Shepherd, but we try to be gatekeepers anyway. We call you the Great I Am, but we try to restrict who you are in our lives. We call you Father, but ignore your wishes. We even fail to recognize our family as family. You believe so much about us and we choose to believe so little about each other. For all of that dissonance, your songs still rise up in us, the breath of your Spirit still inspires us, your Word still speaks to us, your blessings still empower us. May we come to reflect your generosity as enthusiastically as we receive it. Thank you for listening, God. Amen.**

### **(10am only) Assurance of Pardon**

*God's love can change everything, even the power of our sins over us. God's will that we have this power:*

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

*The Peace of Christ be with you*

**And also with you.**

### **(10am only) Gloria Patri (Glory to God)**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**And to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning**

**It is now and ever shall be**

**World without end: Amen, amen.**

**Reading of Scripture**

Say: God's Word is a gift. And good gifts are meant to be opened. Our hearts and minds are gifts. And good gifts are meant to be opened. God offers to help us open our presents by God's own Spirit. Let us take God up on that offer and ask for help to understand. Let us pray...(everyone sings)

**Pray/Sing:** "Break Thou the Bread of Life (verse 2)"

GTG #460

**Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, now unto me,  
As thou didst bless the bread by Galilee.  
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall.  
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.**

Baptism in the Bible always marks places of great transition in people with God. There's something in these stories for the changes in our own lives. Listen closely to the Word of God to us all and our ongoing place in God's story...

**Read: John 1:29-42 (CEB)**

Jesus begins inviting disciples.

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is the one about whom I said, 'He who comes after me is really greater than me because he existed before me.' <sup>31</sup> Even I didn't recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be made known to Israel." <sup>32</sup> John testified, "I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it rested on him. <sup>33</sup> Even I didn't recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> I have seen and testified that this one is God's Son."

<sup>35</sup> The next day John was standing again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus walking along he said, "Look! The Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard what he said, and they followed Jesus.

<sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he asked, "What are you looking for?"

They said, "Rabbi (which is translated Teacher), where are you staying?"

<sup>39</sup> He replied, "Come and see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they remained with

him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

<sup>40</sup> One of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Christ). <sup>42</sup> He led him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

**One: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us...**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Children's Sermon**

Adults, you'll need:

- a magnifying glass (an app on your phone might suffice) or even better a microscope with something to look at
- Make space for questions if you get them "Look Closer!"
- So what is this?...So, it's a magnifying glass. And what do you do with a magnifying glass? Yes, we use them to look closer at something. Maybe it's a bug! Maybe it's a coin! Maybe it's the ridges of your own fingerprint. Maybe a splinter or stitches. A flower? How about somebody's eye?
- And when we look close, REALLY close, we see things we couldn't see before. We realize there's a LOT more to the world.
- Our faith can be like that. If we look close, REALLY close at how God is in our life, how God answers our prayers, we will see things about God we couldn't see before.
- So when you're around the people who care about you, ask them what they do to look at God REALLY close.
- Don't forget to pray!

**(10am only) Anthem:**

"Alleluia Madrigal" by Donald Moore

**"Come and See"**

**Faith requires healthy curiosity.**

How would you describe your **level of faith**? On scale of 0 to 10 (0 being "none" and 10 being

"walking on water territory")? Of course that's completely subjective and arbitrary. Truthfully, our faith isn't measured that way. If faith were only about results or some number, we'd all be coming up short. God defines faith anyway God wants, since God alone is the author.

But we all got to our faith from **some kind of history**. Whether it's life experience, family, where we grew up, the country in which live, even our educational experience. Some got to faith through our church communities, but not all of us. Of course, God's own Spirit is responsible for us being here (in more ways than one). So how do we piece it together? What's the story?

This is not unlike the discipline of archaeology. Consider the state of **Georgia's definition** for a site:

*...formed from a concentration of cultural materials, typically referred to as artifacts, ecofacts (naturally organic or inorganic remains found in a site - think charcoal, seeds, minerals, or unmodified shell or bone), or areas of modified landscape that are associated with past human activity.*

Y'all, doesn't that **describe us?** Each of us our own excavation site, full of artifacts and evidence of previous human activity. The simple reality is that none of us, absolutely none of us, got to faith on our own. So what is your archaeology of belief? What's your story? How did you get here? Why do you believe what you believe? When you start digging at your life, what artifacts will you find? And once found, what will you do with them?

**A part of counseling** or psychotherapy is doing this kind of digging. Getting into why someone does or thinks the way they do. Something to help explain what might not be clear from the surrounding circumstance. It has been said those who don't know their history are doomed to repeat it. What things from the generations that preceded us are we repeating? What beliefs are we furthering? Do we even know why?

**Think about the disciples.** Each of them had a time, a life *before*: a time before Jesus invited them

to become a part of what he was doing. What made them ready?

**Read: John 1:29-42 (CEB)**  
**Jesus begins inviting disciples.**

Again, what made them ready? John says he didn't recognize Jesus but God showed him. Two of John's disciples followed Jesus at John's word. Peter came to see Jesus at the word of his brother. But what made them all READY? What personal archaeology might we perform to understand them saying yes or even asking the question of Jesus, **"Where are you staying?"**

Lord knows: we could do with a LOT more asking that question. Not just in the sense of location (although that's a big one for our area, isn't it?). But in the sense of comparing where we are with where God wants us to be. It's not a matter of whether I pray "better" than you do (whatever THAT's supposed to mean) but whether I'm praying the way GOD wants me to. When wondering whether we are a good church, the question isn't answered using any metric we come up with. It's whether we're living as the church God wants. It's not whether ours is a Christian Nation by anyone's else's definition. It's whether or not we're the nation God is calling us to be.

**The only way to know the answers to those questions is to actually ask them.** To actually wonder and wrestle and writhe under the relentless scrutiny God's love provides. But how? How do we dare? How do we draw up the courage to dig into the historical site that is our life of faith and deal with whatever we find there? How do we position ourselves for God's grace to really work, meaning, not just to reassure us, but to actually transform us?

Three words. Whether in English or Greek. Three words that should govern our faith more than they do. And, of course, Jesus is the one who teaches them to us.

**Come and see.**

Honestly, if we're being technical, the English should really be "Come and you WILL see." Okay,

but so what? What's the difference. Listen, the translation is fine. But it loses something of the sense of discovery, of looking and finding, of not just knocking but actually opening the door. That sense of getting the boat supplied, unmoored, sails raised, and then actually leaving the shore.

**One of the things I love about Lewis and Clark's** story is how utterly wrong they were. There they are, looking for a passage to India, and being powerfully experienced explorers and specifically good at canoeing. They had handled every terrain and obstacle the Appalachian mountains could throw at them. As they made they're way across the country, they felt ready to deal with whatever they faced. Right up until they hit the Rocky Mountains. Everything they knew was important, sure. Everything they had experienced was valid, of course. But their goal of reaching India had to take a backseat to the realities of what they discovered (though their Native American guides tried to explain it to them).

**Y'all who KNOWS what the disciples** were looking for, what they were waiting for. In all their lives, what could really prepare them for walking (REALLY walking) with Jesus? And yet, Jesus didn't invite blank slates to "Come and see." He invited people, people with history. People with an entire archaeology of artifacts to bring to whatever came next.

What they needed was not reassurances (though they got them), blessings (though they got them), the entire timeline and roadmap of faith explained (okay, they didn't get those). What they needed, what was required for both past and present, was **curiosity**. **Faith requires healthy curiosity.** They needed enough knowledge, enough encouragement, enough reassurance, enough blessings, to get started, to keep going, to things through. They needed enough curiosity to discover what God was really up to. They needed enough curiosity to see John 3:16-17 and wonder, in a world like ours: "How is God going to pull that off?"

Dig people. Dig and see what you find. Come and see. Amen.

### Song of Reflection

"Come! Live in the Light! (We Are Called)"  
GTG # 749

### Offering

God chooses to love us, abundantly. We should respond by choosing to be loving, abundantly. This is why we should give and share what we have and who we are. Let us reflect together on what has been given...

### (10am only) Offertory

"On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand" arr. Cindy Berry

### (10am only) Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### Blessing

(text is for the *ONLINE* service)

Let there be no doubt, Great God: you love us. And we are grateful. Let there be no doubt, Great God: we should be loving in turn. As we receive the gifts you provide, may the gifts we are meant to be emerge. In the great name of Jesus Christ, we pray this together. Amen.

### Prayers of the People

- Say: God doesn't just hear our prayers. God answers. Let us pray...
- "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" GTG#465  
**What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer.  
O what peace we often forfeit;  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer.**
- Holy God, you don't force us. You don't threaten us. For you, faith is not about trying to corner us, make fun of us, or even berate us into meekness. Your grace, God is about the invitation. You tell us, "Come and see." Faith, then, must be our answer. So let us not only come with our experiences, our hopes, our mindsets, our history. Let us come willing to write new histories with you. Help have the courage to see what

comes next even though it is hilariously out of our control. Help us trust you, God, to see things, to us, through. May we reflect holy curiosity with you.

- And so, Lord, may that curiosity extend from us to others. Help us see what you see in one another and act accordingly. Help us find the humanity in us: the passion, the love, the restlessness, the wonder, the anger, the sadness, the hopes and dreams, all of it. Help us search with you for the image of God in us all. Dust off, uncover, make known what you have hidden in each of us. You think we are worth saving. Help us learn to agree.
- Thus, let us be Godly people. Let us make a harvest of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Teach us to live lives weeding out apathy, selfishness, cravenness, callousness, and evil. We pray this not only for ourselves, but for so many that we can name... (take time to name your own prayers)
- Thank you for believing in us, Thank you for transforming us. Thank you for teaching us, even how to pray when words fail us, saying,
- **Pray: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **Hymn of Sending**

(10am) "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

GTG #700

### **Sending & Benediction**

*Let us say together our benediction...*

### **Faith requires healthy curiosity.**

(raise your hands and say) "Get up, take heart, Jesus is still calling you..."; Go, and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guide your hearts and minds this day and forever more. Amen!

**Sing:** "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

**God be with you till we meet again;**

**Loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
May the Shepherd's care unfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus' feet.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.**

### **(10am only) Postlude**

"Praise Him! Praise Him!" arr. Mark Hayes