

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

April 25, 2021

4th Sunday of Easter



“The Heart of God”

Rev. David Jones

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A Community of Faith
Growing Together
Sharing the Love of Christ

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

We continue to follow all public health guidelines to love our neighbors and slow the spread of covid. At this time, we will not be singing as a congregation, but will enjoy the music of our soloists and listen carefully to the words and melodies they offer. We will also not be reciting prayers or other liturgy communally, but will join our hearts together with our liturgists and listen as the words are lifted to God

Prelude

*"You Are My King (Amazing Love)"
Played on Piano by Tom Andrew*

Billy James Foote

Welcome and Sharing

****Call to Worship***

Psalm 23 - The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. You spread a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup is running over. Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. And we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**Hymn (rise in spirit and body if you are able, and listen to the words of the hymn)*

No. 667

"When Morning Glids the Sky!"

Edward Caswall

1 When morning gilds the sky,
our hearts awaking cry:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
in all our work and prayer
we ask his loving care:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

4 Be this, when day is past,
of all our thoughts the last:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
The night becomes as day
when from the heart we say:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

5 Then let us join to sing
to Christ, our loving King:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Litany of Affirmation and Assurance (let's join our hearts only together in this prayer)

Little children, let us love not just in word or speech but in deed and in truth. All who keep God's commandments abide in God, and God abides in them. By this we shall know that we are of the truth, for God knows everything. All who keep God's commandments abide in God, and God abides in them. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. All who keep God's commandments abide in God, and God abides in them.

A period of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

This is what God commands: believe in the name of Christ Jesus and love one another. And by this we know that God abides in us, by the Spirit which God has given us. For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven

**Gloria Patri (rise in spirit and body if you are able, and listen to the words of the Gloria Patri)
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.*

**Passing of the peace of Christ*

L: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

As a shepherd cares for the sheep, so also will Christ watch over his followers. As they enter the household, they will be fed, protected, cared for, and led to ventures in faith. Let us pray: Open our hearts and minds O God to Christ's holy words. Amen

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-15

3 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” 19 He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” 25 Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. 28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Epistle Reading

1 John 3:16-24

16 We know love by this that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 17 How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? 18 Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 19 And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him 20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; 22 and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his commandment that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

(Children are invited to go downstairs for Sunday school).

Sermon

"The Heart of God"

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer (debt/debtors)

Call to Offering

We gather as lambs to our mother's bosom enfolded in her all-embracing love. We are refreshed by a stream flowing freely with living waters; we are nourished by a host whose table is heavy laden. We respond in loving gratitude with our time, talent and treasure. Let us bring our gifts of time, talents and treasure to God.

Offertory

"Come Follow Me"

Jay Althouse

Sung by Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto

Please use this time for prayer and reflection on how God is moving you to give – of your time, talent and resources. If you feel moved to give to Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, you can mail contributions to the church office, or use the button on our website (WillowCreekPC.org), or use this QR code to give through your smartphone, or you may leave your offering in the baskets at the back of the sanctuary as you leave after worship.



**Doxology (rise in spirit and body if you are able, and listen to the words of the Doxology)*

*Praise God from whom all blessing flow,
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication.

Source of healing, Bringer of wholeness, you enter the world and cause the light to shine, the lame to walk, the sins of all to be forgiven. Whatever we bring you is a gift of your graciousness. All that we offer, you have poured out upon us. Use us and mold us to conform to your will for all people. Take our talents and apply them to spread the truth of your love. Amen.

Hymn #729

"Lord, I Want to be a Christian"

Hymnary

1 Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2 Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Charge and Benediction

**Postlude*

*"I Love To Tell the Story"
Played on Organ by Tom Andrew*

Hankey

**If you are able, we invite you to honor God by standing. Song Permission One License # 50-5175, CCLI # 5253500*

Thank you to our Liturgist Argyle Greenlee and Recording Director Steve Picken.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Session:

Class of 2021 Maren Reid; Jeff Cummings; Abby Guthrie
Class of 2022 Sandra Bell; Mary Beth Gratz; Mike Landi
Class of 2023 Marie Wiersema; Karli Rankin; Jim Ralston

Deaconate:

Class of 2021 JoAnn Buffington; Gyneth Lamont
Class of 2022 Delores Hall; Jim Hall
Class of 2023 Donna Hamilton

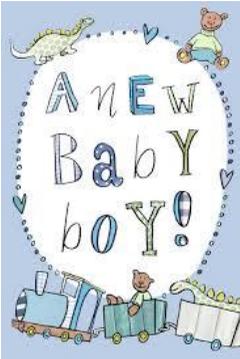
The Ongoing Efforts of the Persons Listed Below Are Greatly Appreciated

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| Ministers | All Members of the Body of Christ |
| Pastor | Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel |
| Bookkeeper | Diane VanVleet |
| Secretary | Peggy Knoepfle |
| Chairperson of Deacons | Jim Hall |
| Church Treasurer | Loren Buffington |
| Clerk of Session | Maren Reid |
| Organist and Chancel Choir Accompanist | Tom Andrew |
| Worship Music Director | Elizabeth O'Leary |
| Co-Financial Secretaries | Penny Picken & Sandra Bell |
| Head Ushers: Steve Picken, Matt Rankin, John Reid, Ed Rottman, Gene Wheeler, Jim Ralston | |
| Prayer Chain Coordinators: Delores Hall & Kim Reid | |
| Youth Sponsors: Lucas Greenlee and Maren Reid | |

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Sunday, April 25 – May 2nd @ 10:30 am

We will meet in person. Children can go down to Sunday school after the scripture reading.



Congratulations to Pastor Lauren & Scott as they welcome their son Emmett Scott Betzel, born April 17, 2021 weighing 7 lbs 10 oz. May the Lord Bless you!