

# WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 14TH, 2024 | 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY | 10:00AM



## OUR APPROACH TO GOD

*Come, celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ with us! All are invited to sing, pray and participate in liturgy.*

¶ IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO STAND.

PRELUDE

SHINING THROUGH  
*Dan Holmes, Guitar & Voice*

DAN HOLMES

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

CALL TO WORSHIP - FROM PSALM 84

RON MUZZARELLI

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs for the courts of the Lord.

**My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home here.**

Even the swallow finds a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord.

**Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.**

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

**For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; bestowing favor and honor.

**No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.**

O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

**Come, let us worship God!**

*Sung to the tune of "Morning Has Broken"*

- <sup>1</sup> Mary and Joseph came to the temple, brought the boy Jesus, offered him there.  
People were waiting, wanting to greet him; long had they sought him, solace for care.
- <sup>2</sup> Anna had prayed there, widowed, long waiting, worshiping God by day and by night.  
Now she is praising, filled with elation: here is God's promise, Christ is her light.
- <sup>3</sup> Simeon sings now: God proffers blessing, brilliantly gilding dawn of his day.  
Light in the darkness, never extinguished, Light of all nations, light up our way.

#### INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we worry that we are not as faithful as we should be. We read stories of those who heard a word from you and let that word guide their entire lives, and we worry because if you have spoken a word to us, it is unclear or difficult to follow. We read stories of folks whose faith looks like certainty, and we worry because we so often have more questions than convictions. Will you forgive us the sin of worrying about the shape of our faith and forgetting that you are the author and perfecter of our hearts, our souls, our lives? Will you forgive us for feeling guilty for not having enough faith, and also forgive us for not having enough faith?**

#### A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM PSALM 72:6

The mercy of the Lord is like rain, like showers that water the earth.  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

#### I 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.

#### I PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the Peace of Christ be with you; **And also with you.**

#### INVITATION TO THE WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST GOSPEL READING

LUKE 2:22 - 32

PAGES 1591 - 1592

The Gospel of our Risen Savior. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

DOIN' MAGIC

DAN HOLMES

#### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*At this time, children are invited to go downstairs for Sunday School.*

#### SECOND GOSPEL READING

LUKE 2:33 - 40

PAGE 1592

The mystery of the ages, revealed to all. **Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON

"EXTRAORDINARY, ORDINARY"

#### OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

I HYMN #408

THERE'S A SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

DORIS ACKERS, 1962

I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – AN EXCERPT FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

**In life and in death we belong to God,**

**through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:**

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,**

**teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,**

**healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,**

**eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified,**

**suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,**

**breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. But we rebel against God;**

**we hide from our Creator. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.**

**Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks**

**and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate  
us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

IT WILL ALWAYS BE THAT WAY

DAN HOLMES

I 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.

I PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI

**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, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the  
kingdom, the power and glory forever. Amen.**

I HYMN #366

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

WESLEY, 1747 & PRICHARD, 1831

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

I BENEDICTION RESPONSE

LORD, BID YOUR SERVANT GO IN PEACE

*Dan Holmes*

JAMES QUINN SJ

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! LITURGIST: RON MUZZARELLI  
USHERS: LON & KATHY CLARK, KATHERINE RALSTON AND MATT RALSTON  
ORGAN: TOM ANDREW

**WILLOW CREEK SANCTUARY CHOIR** will sing for Worship on **Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**.

We will rehearse on **Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** and **February 4<sup>th</sup>** at 8:45am.

If you can only come on the 4<sup>th</sup>, that is okay.

Liz will be glad to hand music to anyone who wants to work on their own.

Next Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, our **new Elders and Deacons** will be **ordained and installed** during our 10am worship service. Join us for this special occasion.

**Officer Training** for all currently serving Elders and Deacons will follow worship next Sunday.

**SERMON SERIES: THE EARLY LIFE OF JESUS** We begin 2024 with sermons on the few stories we have about Jesus' life before his public ministry began.

- Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>: Epiphany - the story of three magi visiting Jesus shortly after his birth
- Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>: **Mary and Joseph dedicate Jesus in the temple**
- Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>: Jesus in the temple as a young adolescent teaching others
- Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>: Baptism of Jesus (Pastor Tanya preaching)
- Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>: The Transfiguration

#### **WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR**

<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup></b>		Martin Luther King Jr. - No Argyle Preschool, WCPC Office Closed
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	8a	Buildings and Grounds, 6p Pipe Band and Drums, Worship & Music
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	11:30a	Ladies Meet & Eat at Sophia's Restaurant, 6p Bell Rehearsal
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup></b>		Youth Group Serving at the Burns Banquet Coat Check
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship

**"A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the love of Christ"**

#### **MINISTERS: ALL MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

For more information about our staff and volunteers, visit our website.

The Church Office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30a - 3p. If you'd like to set up a time to visit Pastor Lauren or Pastor Tanya, please reach out to the Church Office.

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