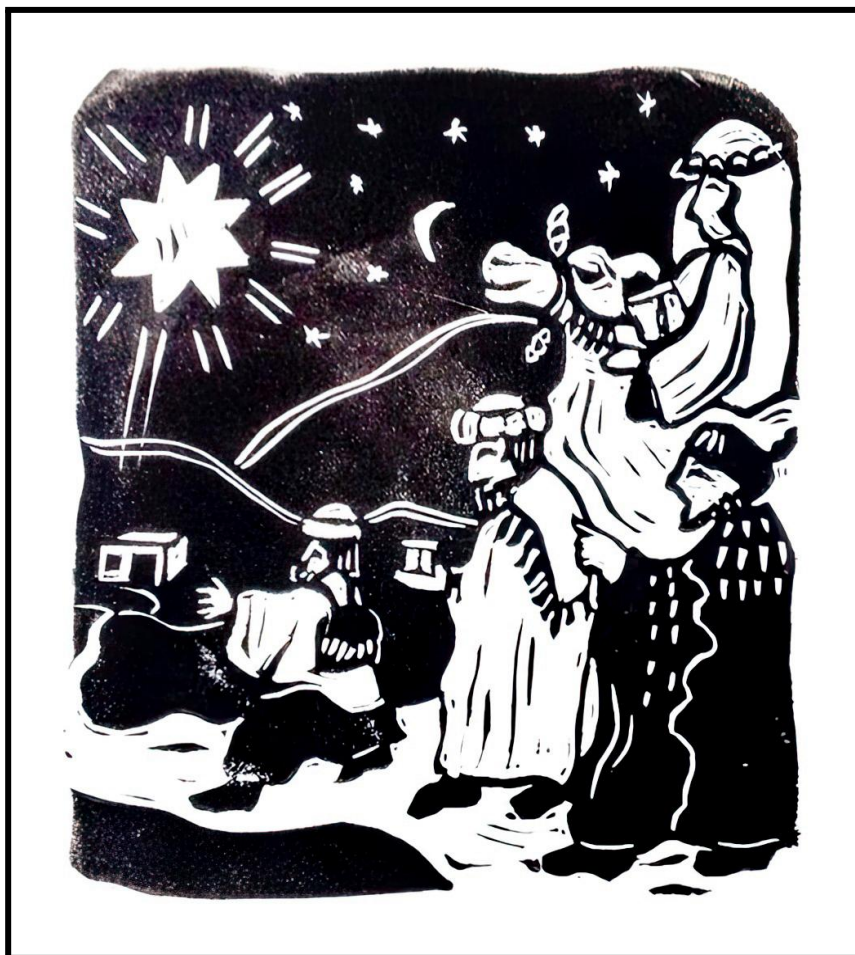


WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 7TH, 2024 | 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

THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME
Bill Zartman, Violin; Joyce Zartman, Bell Tree & Tom Andrew, Piano

BASQUE CAROL ARR. CATHY MOKLEBUST

WELCOME AND SHARING

PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI

IF CALL TO WORSHIP: LITANY FOR EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

MARY BETH GRATZ

Arise, shine: for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

Nations will come to Christ's light, and rulers will seek Christ's radiance.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

God will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

The mystery of the ages is revealed; the eternal plan of God is known to all.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

Let us kneel down before Christ and give our honor, glory, and praise.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

Let us offer God all the treasures of our hearts and our lives. Come, let us worship God!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

READING OF PROPHECY

MICAH 5:2 - 7

PAGES 1445 - 1446

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

16TH CENTURY ENGLISH CAROL ARR. LINDA R. LAMB

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

READING OF FULFILLMENT

MATTHEW 2:1 - 12

PAGES 1497 - 1498

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

SERMON

"HOME BY ANOTHER WAY"

MAREN REID

Today's sermon was written by the Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor.

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – PHILIPPIANS 2:5 - 11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

I HYMN #151

WE THREE KINGS

JOHN HENRY HOPKINS JR., 1857

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

COVENTRY CAROL

Bill Zartman, Violin; Joyce Zartman, Bells and Chimes & Tom Andrew, Piano

ARR. SUSAN T. NELSON

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

I HYMN #150

AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD
first verse

DIX, KOCHER & MONK

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

COMMUNION

We hold the bread and partake together, celebrating that Christ joins us into one united body. We drink the cup as it comes to us, rejoicing that Christ comes to us as individuals and loves us just as we are.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 #192

LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE IS SHINING

GRAHAM KENDRICK, 1987

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! LITURGIST: MARY BETH GRATZ
USHERS: STEVE & DAYLE PAULSON, STEVE PICKEN AND JOHN REID

TODAY'S SERMON was written by the Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor.

Taylor's website describes her as a "writer, speaker, and spiritual contrarian". She is a best-selling author, teacher, and Episcopal priest. Her first memoir, *Leaving Church*, won an Author of the Year award from the Georgia Writers Association in 2006. Her next three books earned places on the New York Times bestseller list. Taylor has served on the faculties of Piedmont College, Emory University, Mercer University, Columbia Seminary, Oblate School of Theology, and the Certificate in Theological Studies program at Arrendale State Prison for Women in Alto, Georgia. Her latest book, *Always a Guest*, was released in October 2020 from Westminster John Knox Press. (barbarabrowntaylor.com).

Today's sermon comes from her collection of sermons, also titled *Home By Another Way*. If you would like to borrow this book, or other titles by her, Pastor Lauren has them in her office.

Thank you to our President of the Corporation, **Maren Reid**, for preaching the sermon today.

COVER ART: Cara B. Hochhalter, *The Magi*. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59038>

GRATITUDE BAGS

Your generosity in this year's gratitude bags was truly incredible! We deeply feel your gratitude, and *we are so thankful* for the opportunity to serve here at Willow Creek! Thank you for your encouraging notes, thoughtfulness, well wishes and Christmas joy!

A huge thank you from Your WCPC Staff: Tom Andrew, Stephanie Konen, Dianne Londo, Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli, Elizabeth O'Leary, Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel, Riley Rankin, Shannon Reagan, Diane Van Vleet & Katie Wolf.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 7th	10a	Worship - Communion, 11a Undercorate the Church & Chili cook-off
Monday 8th		Welcome Back Argyle Preschool!
Tuesday 9th	6p	Pipe Band and Drums: Lessons and Rehearsals
Wednesday 10th	5p	Confirmation
Thursday 11th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 14th	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 8:30am - 3pm. 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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Social Media: <https://linktr.ee/wpcpcargyle>