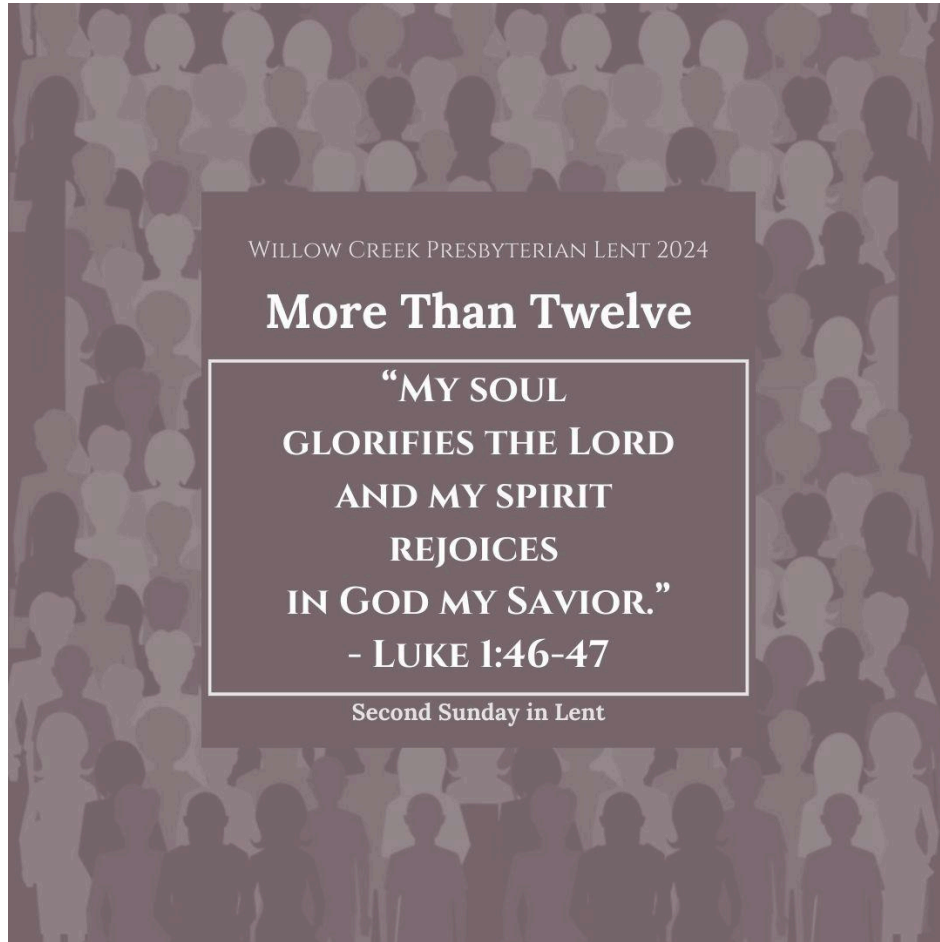


WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 25TH, 2024 | SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT | 10:00AM



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

DEAR LORD AND FATHER OF MANKIND
Elizabeth O'Leary, Piano

FREDERICK CHARLES MARKER, 1887

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

IF CALL TO WORSHIP: LITANY FOR LENT

MAREN REID

For forty years the people wandered,

seeking the land of God's promise.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Eternal God, as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ,

so give us the grace of repentance

that we may pass through the grave with Christ and be born again to eternal life.

For Christ is the One who lived, was crucified, dead, and buried, and rose again for us. Amen!

Come, let us worship God!

IF HYMN #156

SING OF GOD MADE MANIFEST

DAW, JR., HINTZE ARR. BACH

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and glory, we confess that we are not always seeking signs of your miraculous presence. We confess we settle for the ordinary, when you are always at work, transforming the ordinary into the holy. We confess that we forget signs and miracles are always inviting us to perceive the greatness of your love, and the greatness of the love you are giving us for others. May we see something new today. May we perceive a miracle this Lent. May we remember that in a lost and hurting world, love is always a miracle. Forgive us for the many excuses we make when we fail to love - fail to love you, fail to love others, fail to see our own belovedness. May we believe more deeply in your love today.

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM ROMANS 5:5

God's love has been poured into your hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit!
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 1:28 - 33, 37 - 38, 46 - 55

PAGES 1588 - 1589

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

FAIREST LORD JESUS

CRUSADER'S HYMN, ARR. JERRY RAY

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

SECOND GOSPEL READING

JOHN 2:1 - 11

PAGE 1648

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

SERMON

"MARY KNEW"

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

I HYMN #100

MY SOUL CRIES OUT WITH A JOYFUL SHOUT

IRISH MELODY; ARR. RORY COONEY, 1990

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 the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

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.

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.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY

ITHAMAR CONKEY, 1849

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 #509

ALL WHO HUNGER, GATHER GLADLY

DUNSTAN, 1990 & MOORE, 1825

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

You are invited to come forward down the center aisles.

You may choose to pull a piece from the common loaf or select a pre-cut piece of gluten free bread from the tray on the communion table.

You may dip your bread into the common cup or choose an individual cup from the tray on the communion table.

If you need communion brought to you, we will gladly do so.

PRAYER 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 #169

DEAR LORD AND FATHER OF MANKIND

WITTIER, 1872 & MAKER, 1887

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE

GHANAIAN FOLK MELODY

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! LITURGIST: MAREN REID

USHERS: RENEE O'DELL, ED ROTTMAN, CAROLYN J. WHEELER AND CAROLYN L. WHEELER

This year's **Lenten theme** is "**More Than Twelve**". Each week we will read a story about Jesus interacting with someone other than the Twelve Disciples. Each story will teach us something about how Jesus lived, served and loved during his time on earth.

Each Wednesday, we will dig a little deeper into the characters of Sunday's story at our **Lenten Soup Study** where we'll share a simple meal, fellowship and study. You do not have to come each week – come when your schedule allows! We will meet on **Wednesdays, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13 and 3/20 from 5:30pm - 7pm.**

There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to pick a day to bring soup.

The Youth Group will be helping with the **Easter Egg Hunt** on **Sunday, March 31st, 2024 at 9:30am.**

Would you like to donate candy? Must be individually wrapped and be able to fit inside a plastic egg.

Candy is due here at Willow Creek by March 10th, 2024 for the Youth. Thank you so much for your support! Any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Church Office.

WILLOW CREEK SANCTUARY CHOIR will be singing for worship next Sunday, March 3rd, 2024. If you can, please come to rehearsal at 8:45a the morning of. Any questions, feel free to reach out to Liz.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 25th	9:15a	Adult Sunday School, 10a Worship - 2 nd Sunday in Lent - Communion by Intinction, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E
Tuesday 27th	6p	Pipe Band & Drumming, Worship & Music
Wednesday 28th	5:30p	Lenten Soup Study
Sunday 3rd	8:45a	Choir Rehearsal, 9:15a Adult Sunday School, 10a Worship - 3 rd Sunday in Lent - Communion by Intinction, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Deacons, Youth Group

"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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