

# WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 31ST, 2024 | EASTER SUNDAY | 10:00AM



## OUR APPROACH TO GOD

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

IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO STAND.

PRELUDE

CHRIST IS ALIVE!  
Tom Andrew, Organ

BRIAN WREN

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

IF CALL TO WORSHIP

APRIL ROTTMAN

I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.  
The stone has been rolled away. **Christ is not in the tomb.**  
Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**  
Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**  
Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**  
Alleluia! **Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us worship God!**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the new life you raise up in us through the mystery of our baptism - the sorrow of the heavy cross, the surprise of the empty tomb, the love that death could not destroy.

**By the power of your Holy Spirit, poured out upon us in baptism, fill us with the joy of resurrection, so that we may be a living sign of your new heaven and new earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## 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

JOHN REID

## PSALTER READING

PSALM 23

PAGE 862

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

## SPECIAL MUSIC

MORNING HAS BROKEN  
Sung by the Monroe Sisters

GAELIC MELODY

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

## GOSPEL READING

MARK 16:1 - 8

PAGE 1095

We are witnesses to these things: the Messiah is risen from the dead. **Alleluia! Amen!**

## SERMON

"RESURRECTION HOPE"

## OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

## I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

I HYMN #250

IN THE BULB THERE IS A FLOWER

NATALIE SLEETH, 1986

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! GIVE THANKS  
Willow Creek Sanctuary Choir

DONALD FISHEL

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 #215

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS  
1st Verse

AMERICAN FOLK HYMN

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.*

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 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 #232

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY!

DAVIDICA, 1708; WESLEY, 1740

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! LITURGISTS: JOHN REID AND APRIL ROTTMAN

ACOLYTES: OLIVIA LANDI AND EMMA LANDI

USHERS: LON CLARK, DON GREENLEE, MIKE LANDI AND ED ROTTMAN

*The acolytes light the candles at the beginning of the service, representing the light of Christ coming in. Then, they carry the light out of the sanctuary with the final hymn, encouraging us to follow Christ's light out into the world.*

## WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	8a	Sunrise Service at the Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery
	9a	Pancake Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt
	10a	Worship - Communion
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup></b>		<a href="#">Easter Monday - Welcome back Argyle Preschool!</a>
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	6:30p	Session
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30a	Ladies Walk at WCPC, 11:30a Ladies Meet & Eat at Sophia's, 6p Bell Rehearsal
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	10a	Worship - Maren Reid Preaching - Communion, 11a Fellowship

**SPRING MISSION CLOSET DRIVE** Our spring **Mission Closet Drive** is for **The Haven Network!** From **Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> through the end of April** we will collect items to make kits for moms. **What is Needed:** **Travel Sizes of Women's** body wash, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, hair ties, chapstick and \$25.00 gift cards for Rockford Area Chain Restaurants (Chili's, Red Lobster, etc.). Contact Marisa O'Dell, David Perez-Fernandez or the Church Office at 815-885-3455 with any questions.

### NOTES ON TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE:

Throughout Lent, we practice the ancient tradition of "burying the alleluia" as we contemplate mortality and approach the cross. But today, we shout with joy that Christ is risen indeed, **alleluia!**

Typically, our worship service includes a prayer of confession, but today instead we pray together a **Thanksgiving for Baptism** - not because we think we are no longer sinful, but because on this day of resurrection, we confess our freedom from sin by giving thanks for the gift of Baptism. All can give thanks for this gift - whether you've been baptized or not, the hope of new life persists for all.

The beginnings of the Thanksgiving for Baptism and the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving are similar, reminding us of the connection between the **sacraments** of Baptism and Communion. It is indeed right to give our thanks and praise!

### EASTER FLOWERS

Jack & Jean Greenlee	In Loving Memory of All of Our Lost Loved Ones
Jim & Delores Hall	In Loving Memory of Our Parents
Kathy Meyer	In Loving Memory of Roger L. Meyer, Tim & Doris Pacek; Our Parents, John & Marjarie Halluada and Fred & Nellie Meyer
Brian & Marisa O'Dell	In Loving Memory of Benjamin R. O'Dell
Rick & Renee O'Dell	In Honor of Michele O'Dell Boeke

***"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 office.

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