

**WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2024 | FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | 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.

BAGPIPE PRELUDE

LUCAS GREENLEE

WELCOME

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

IF CALL TO WORSHIP FROM ROMANS 6

MARY BETH GRATZ

**We gather today in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with Christ into a death like his, we will certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like his.**

IF HYMN

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

FOSDICK, 1930 & HUGHES, 1907

<sup>1</sup> God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

<sup>2</sup> Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

<sup>3</sup> Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

<sup>4</sup> Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.  
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

**Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM ROMANS 8

PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI

If God is for us, who can be against us? Who then is the one who condemns?

**No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.**

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

SCRIPTURE READING

JAMES 1:17 - 27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, for human anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

HOMILY

“THOSE WHO PERSEVERE”

REMEMBRANCES

Wayne Ashburn  
Loren Buffington  
Herb Greenlee  
Wilbur Reid  
Paul Vincer

*During the Covid-19 Pandemic, there were restrictions on funerals.  
Today we also remember David Cummings, Phyllis Cummings, Todd Greenlee, and others  
whose deaths and memorial services were shaped by the pandemic.*

I PSALTER READING

THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

I HYMN

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

HOW, 1864 & WILLIAMS, 1906

<sup>1</sup>For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

*Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia!*

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

<sup>2</sup>Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.

*Refrain*

<sup>3</sup>O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine;  
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.

*Refrain*

<sup>4</sup>And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.

*Refrain*

<sup>5</sup>From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Refrain*

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

AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND

NEWTON, 1772 & EXCELL, 1910

<sup>1</sup> Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

<sup>2</sup> 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

<sup>3</sup> Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

<sup>4</sup> The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

<sup>5</sup> When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION FROM ROMANS 8

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**No! In all these things we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

BAGPIPE POSTLUDE

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**Baskets are available if you would like to give an offering.**

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! LITURGIST: MARY BETH GRATZ  
USHERS: ARGYLE GREENLEE, LUCAS GREENLEE AND STEVE & DAYLE PAULSON

**Cover Art:** Photograph by Annie Picken

Today we celebrate **Communion** by intinction. You are invited to come forward to pull a piece of bread from the common loaf or select a pre-cut piece of gluten free bread from the tray.  
You may dip your bread into the common cup or choose an individual cup.  
If you need communion brought to you, we will gladly do so.

Our **Living with Grief** Group will begin meeting on Second Wednesdays at 1pm.  
No matter how long you have been grieving or who or what you carry grief for, all are welcome to join us on **Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.**

**WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR**

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	10a 11a	Worship Outside at The Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery Fellowship (No Diaconate: Will Resume In October)
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>		<b>Labor Day - Church Office Closed</b>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>th</sup></b>	6:30p	Session
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	8a <b>8:30a - 11a</b> 11:30a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant <b>1<sup>st</sup> Day of Argyle Preschool - Welcome Class of 2024</b> Argyle Preschool Board
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	11:30a	Ladies Meet & Eat at Sophia's, 6p Bell Rehearsal
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b> <small>Change for Change</small>	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Youth Group

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

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

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