

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2024 | NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | 10:00AM



FIRST SUNDAY OF STEWARDSHIP SEASON

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 HONOR GOD BY STANDING.

PRELUDE

I WALK BY FAITH

CHRIS FALSON

Tom Andrew, Piano

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

IF CALL TO WORSHIP

MAREN REID

Who are you? Why have you come here rejoicing and singing? This is a fearful place. Here you will meet your God, the Triune God of all nations.

We are children of God; forgiven by Christ, made family by God. We have come to rejoice with song, for this is a joyful place. Here we meet holy presence!

Are you worthy to come here? Have you been true followers of God?

No. Indeed, none of us are worthy on our own merit. We have sinned and fallen short of grace.

We have failed in countless ways. We acknowledge that sin is our lot, confessing our unfaithfulness, acknowledging our unworthiness, but believing in a God of Covenants. We bring our wavering commitments and our love to God and to one another.

You are right to come to this place. This is a place of remembrance and forgiveness. Let us worship the Triune God who is faithful and just, gracious and merciful.

Come, let us worship God!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of justice and mercy, you alone know the abundance of grace you have given us. You know the extent of the blessings you have blessed us with. You know the truth of our generosity and the truth of our anxiety. Forgive us for never being as generous with your children as you are with us. Forgive us for never having the same grace for others we long for others to have for us. Forgive us for trying to determine how much someone deserves a gift before we give it. Forgive us for thinking we could ever give too much. Free us from believing that we have to hold anything back. Give us the courage to live, give and love abundantly. May we glorify you with the generosity of our souls.

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM ISAIAH 35

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. Your God will come and save you." Those the Lord has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

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

PSALTER READING

PSALM 122

PAGE 966

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

TAKE MY LIFE

HAVERGAL, 1974 & MALAN, 1827

Kathy Clark, Alto; Stephen Clark, Tenor and Renee O'Dell, Soprano

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

EPISTLE READING

ROMANS 12:1 - 2

PAGE 1763

Holy wisdom, **holy Word.**

SERMON

"BY THE MERCIES OF GOD BE TRANSFORMED"

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - QUESTIONS FROM THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Why can't our good works be our righteousness before God, or at least a part of our righteousness?

Because the righteousness which can pass God's judgment must be entirely perfect and must in every way measure up to the divine law. But even our best works in this life are imperfect and stained with sin.

How can our good works be said to merit nothing when God promises to reward them in this life and the next?

This reward is not earned; it is a gift of grace.

But doesn't this teaching make people indifferent and wicked?

No. It is impossible for those grafted into Christ through true faith not to produce fruits of gratitude.

I HYMN #701

LORD, PREPARE ME (SANCTUARY)

THOMPSON & SCRUGGS, 1982

A MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

LON CLARK

OFFERTORY

GIVE THANKS
Tom Andrew, Organ

HENRY SMITH

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 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 #625

O LORD MY GOD

STUART HINE, 1949

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING

ROBERT L. EDWARDS

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! LITURGIST: MAREN REID
USHERS: BRENDA BENNING, MATT RALSTON, CAROLYN J. WHEELER AND CAROLYN L. WHEELER

STEWARDSHIP SEASON: BY GOD'S MERCIES BE TRANSFORMED

Today is the first Sunday of Stewardship season. For the next few weeks, we will focus on our gratitude for God's grace, our gratitude for this church, and our gratitude for our ability to give through our time, energy and talent. There is a fall leaf in your bulletin (and more in the Fellowship Hall). Please take a moment to write something you're grateful for about our church and add your leaf to the tree in the Fellowship Hall. Please also pick up a pledge card (or ask the Church Office to mail or email one to you) and prayerfully consider your pledge for 2025.

Everyone is invited to return their pledges to church on **Sunday, October 13th**.

NEXT WEEK! SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH * WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY * RISE AGAINST HUNGER

We will gather for worship as usual in the sanctuary at 10a for a brief communion service, then head down to the Fellowship Hall to pack **10,152** nutrient-dense, shelf-stable meals for those suffering from hunger. We will **finish around 12:30p**. There are jobs for every age and ability level.

This is a great service opportunity to invite others to.

We will need **snacks** to fuel our hard work - sign up in the Fellowship Hall to bring something to share. Each meal costs about 40 cents. A donation of **\$10 covers the cost of twenty-five meals** for folks in need.

A donation of \$40 covers the cost of 100 meals.

Whether you can join us for the service project or not, your donations also help in this important Mission opportunity.

YOUTH GROUP meets **today!** All 6th - 12th graders are welcome to join us from 11:30am - 1:30pm for fellowship, food and fun!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL has resumed! We are revisiting our *Testimonies* series - come hear from others how God is working in their lives. Join us at 9:15am in the Library.

Join us this **Wednesday, October 9th at 1pm** for our **Living with Grief** Group, which meets on **Second Wednesdays at 1pm**.

No matter how long you've been grieving, or who or what you carry grief for, you are welcome.

Every Sunday, we join our voices together to **affirm what we believe** using the *Book of Confessions*. Rather than figuring out our beliefs as individuals each Sunday morning, we turn to faithful followers of Christ throughout time and around the world to see how they answered the question:

What does it mean to follow Christ here and now?

Today's confession is from **The Heidelberg Catechism**, which was completed in 1563 in Germany to reflect the beliefs of the early Reformed (and always being reformed) Church.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 29th	9:15a	Adult Sunday School, 10a Worship, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E 11:30a Youth Group
Tuesday 1st	6:30p	Session
Wednesday 2nd	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 3rd	11:30a	Ladies Meet & Eat at Sophias, 6p Bell Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 5th	9a	Paint Party with a Purpose
Sunday 6th	10a	Worship - Brief Communion Service followed by Rise Against Hunger

"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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