

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2024 | SIXTEENTH 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 HONOR GOD BY STANDING.

PRELUDE

WHEN THE POOR ONES (CUANDO EL POBRE)

JOSÉ ANTONIO OLIVAR

Tom Andrew, Piano

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

IF CALL TO WORSHIP - FROM PSALM 146

MOLLY SHIPTON

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Come, let us worship God!

IF HYMN #14

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

PIERPOINT, KOCHER & MONK

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of every time and place, you are nearer than our breath, and yet, at times, you feel incredibly distant. When we become aware of our sinfulness, we feel far away from you and wonder how your grace could possibly descend into every corner of our hearts. We worry that our actions can cause you to turn away from us. But you have shown us that is not so. May we believe that our sin cannot separate us from you. May we freely confess all that is within us that distracts us from you and blocks us from accepting ourselves and others.

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

JAMES 2:1 - 10

PAGES 1881 - 1882

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRECIOUS JESUS

JAY ALTHOUSE

Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

JAMES 2:11 - 17

LON CLARK

Holy wisdom, **holy Word.**

PAGE 1882

SERMON

"WORKS OF FAITH AND LIVES OF LOVE"

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 #346

FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

KAAN, 1965 & WADE, C. 1750

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD

KREMSER

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 #301

LET US BUILD A HOUSE (ALL ARE WELCOME)

MARTY HAUGEN, K 1994

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

WHEN WE WALK WITH THE LORD

Tom Andrew, Organ

JOHN H. SAMMIS

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! LITURGIST: MOLLY SHIPTON
USHERS: RON MUZZARELLI, STEVE PICKEN, JOHN REID AND ED ROTTMAN

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 resumed this morning! 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, September 11th at 1pm** for our first meeting of the **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. At this first meeting, an experienced facilitator, Nita Osbourne, will offer a lesson on how grief impacts our lives, and there will be time for conversation and fellowship. All are welcome - please consider inviting those who are grieving who are not yet connected to our church.

MISSION CLOSET DRIVE: KITCHEN SUPPLIES

The Blackhawk Presbytery's Mission Committee has requested help for a family who recently immigrated and needs help with basic household supplies. Our Mission Task Force has decided to help with **kitchen** needs. There is a **sign up sheet** in the **Fellowship Hall**. Please indicate which item(s) you will bring in. All donations must be brought to church by **NEXT Sunday, September 15th**.

Thank you for caring for those in need!

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.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2024 SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE & POTLUCK

Join us for our annual Kirkin' worship service including bagpipes and Blessing o' the Tartans! All are invited to bring a tartan. Remember, we are not all of Scottish descent - we celebrate all backgrounds! There are instructions on how to make a tartan in the Fellowship Hall, outside the Church Office door, or reach out to Shannon in the Office for more information. There will be a **potluck** following the service. Each household is asked to bring a generous dish to pass. Drinks and place settings will be provided.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 8th <i>Change for Change</i>	9:15a	Adult Sunday School, 10a Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Youth Group
Tuesday 10th	6p	Pipe Band & Drumming: Lessons & Rehearsals
Wednesday 11th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 12th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 15th	9:15a	Adult Sunday School, 10a Worship-Pastor Tanya Preaching 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 8:30a - 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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