

# WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2024 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 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 HONOR GOD BY STANDING.

PRELUDE

I'LL GO TELL ELIZABETH  
Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto

KEN MEDEMA

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING: HOPE

STEVE & DAYLE PAULSON

The days are surely coming.

### **What days?**

The days we hope for, when the promises that were given in the days of old will be fulfilled.

### **What was promised?**

We were promised a savior who would spring up from an ancient branch, who would bring safety and justice and righteousness.

### **What if I already feel safe? What if I already experience justice?**

That's a taste of the promise - we think we feel those things now, but they will feel even more true when the promises are fulfilled. Meanwhile, we who feel safe should work for the safety of others. We who experience justice should work so that no one suffers injustice. We should offer hope to all.

### **Each time we try to offer safety and justice to others, it's like lighting a candle.**

Today we light the candle of hope, remembering that each act of love and justice - each righteous act - is a reminder of the promises from the days of old, and a glimpse of the fulfillment that we hope for, a glimpse of the days that are surely coming.

**We light the candle of hope as a reminder to offer hope to others in any way we can, as we look forward with hope to the fulfillment of the promises from the days of old.**

IF HYMN #105

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST (*first verse*)

FRENCH FOLK MELODY; FARJEON & SHAW, 1928

*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.*

*Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.*

*People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

**God of every time and place, you call us to hope, but we are distracted. You call us to anticipate your return, but we do not expect such a miracle. You call us to look and listen for you while we wait, but we ignore your promises. We confess that we hold your promises too casually. We have not needed you enough. We have been too satisfied by the gifts of this world and have forgotten to seek eternal things.**

## A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON - FROM ISAIAH 35

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom.

**The people of God will return with joy and singing.**

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

## READING OF PROPHECY

JEREMIAH 33:14 - 16

PAGE 1232

This is the promise of God to our ancestors and to us. **Thanks be to God.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

## THANKSGIVING

EARLY AMERICAN TUNE ARR. JOHN NESS BECK

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

## READING OF FULFILLMENT

LUKE 21:25 - 36

PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI

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

PAGE 1636

## SERMON

"SIGNS OF HOPE"

## OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

## MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

## I LITANY: O ANTIPHONS

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation,

**you order all things with strength and gentleness:**

**Come now and teach us the way to salvation.**

O Adonai, Ruler of the House of Israel,

**you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai:**

**Come with outstretched arm to save us.**

O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the peoples;

**before you earthly rulers will keep silent, and nations give you honor:**

**Come quickly to deliver us.**

O Key of David, Scepter over the house of Israel; you open and no one can close;

**you close and no one can open: Come to set the prisoners free.**

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light,

**Sun of justice: Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

O Ruler of the nations, Monarch for whom the people long,

**you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity: Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay.**

O Emmanuel, our Sovereign and lawgiver, desire of the nations Savior of all:

**Come and save us, O Lord our God. Come, Lord Jesus.**

I HYMN #88

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

PRE-9TH CENT. HELMORE, 1852 & WEAVER, 1988

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

NOW THE HEAVENS START TO WHISPER

Tom Andrew, Organ

MARY LOUISE BRINGLE

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 #133

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL (*first verse*)

WADE, 1743 & OAKELEY, 1841

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 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 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 #459

O WORD OF GOD INCARNATE

HOW, 1867 & MENDELSSOHN, 1847

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

THE ANGEL OF GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

SABINE BARING-GOULD

SONG PERMISSIONS CCLI COPYRIGHT LICENSE 1207686, SIZE A/ONELICENSE A-725962.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! LITURGIST: MARY BETH GRATZ

USHERS: LON & KATHY CLARK AND STEVE & DAYLE PAULSON

Throughout Advent, we will affirm our faith using **O Antiphons**. The name comes from the Greek word antiphon (ἀντίφωνον, ἀντί "opposite" and φωνή "voice"), which is a short chant sung as a refrain. The antiphons were designed to concentrate the mind on Advent with a complex series of references from the Old and New Testaments. In Latin, the first letters of these seven images of Christ - *Sapientia* (wisdom), *Adonia* (Lord), *Radix Jesse* (root of Jesse), *Clavis David* (Key of David), *Oriens* (Radiant Dawn), *Rex Gentium* (Ruler of the nations), *Emmanuel* (God with us) - make up a backward acrostic, spelling *ero cras*: "tomorrow I will [come]." We are most familiar with these seven images from the hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. By reciting them, we are lifting our hearts and voices in an Advent tradition that dates back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century. With the prayerful refrain "Come..." we confess our belief that Christ has come and Christ will come again, and we describe the One whose return we anticipate.

**Make a Local Family's Christmas Merry & Bright!** Our church is helping a local family have a Merry Christmas. Please visit the tree by the Mission Closet door and choose an item or two to purchase and gift wrap and return to church by **Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. If you would prefer to give money to this cause, that's a big help, too! You can put it in the offering plate (please mark on the memo line of the check or an envelope: "Tessa's Family"). Please reach out to Shannon if you have any questions.

Thank you for your generosity and willingness to spread the joy of the season!

Would you like to order a **Poinsettia** in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person? Order forms are in the Fellowship Hall and on the Church Office door. Orders and payment (\$12.00 each) due to the Church Office **by Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

**All Church Gingerbread Party** on *Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 4pm*. This is for all kids, ages 1 to 92 (and those younger than 1 and older than 92 are also welcome!). Join us as we celebrate the joys of the season.

**December 1<sup>st</sup>**: First Sunday in Advent with Communion

**Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>**: All Church Gingerbread Party **2pm - 4pm**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**: Second Sunday in Advent - Children's Christmas Pageant

**December 15<sup>th</sup>**: Third Sunday in Advent - Worship with Handbells & **Cookie Walk** following

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>**: Fourth Sunday in Advent - Lessons & Carols

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**: Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight **4pm**

**December 29<sup>th</sup>**: Hymn Sing

**January 5<sup>th</sup>**: Epiphany & Communion

Join us for the beloved traditions of this special time of year.

We hope you can bake (and buy!) cookies on *Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>* for our **Cookie Walk!**

All proceeds benefit the very important **Family in Need Fund**.

### WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	10a	Worship - Communion, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	11:30a	Ladies Meet & Eat at Sophia's Restaurant, 6p Bell Rehearsal
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	2p-4p	All Church Gingerbread Party
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	10a	Worship - Children's Christmas Pageant, 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.

Phone: (815) 885-3455  
7300 Belvidere Road  
Caledonia, Illinois 61011



Email: [office@willowcreekpc.org](mailto:office@willowcreekpc.org)  
Website: [www.willowcreekpc.org](http://www.willowcreekpc.org)  
Social Media: <https://linktr.ee/wcpcargyle>