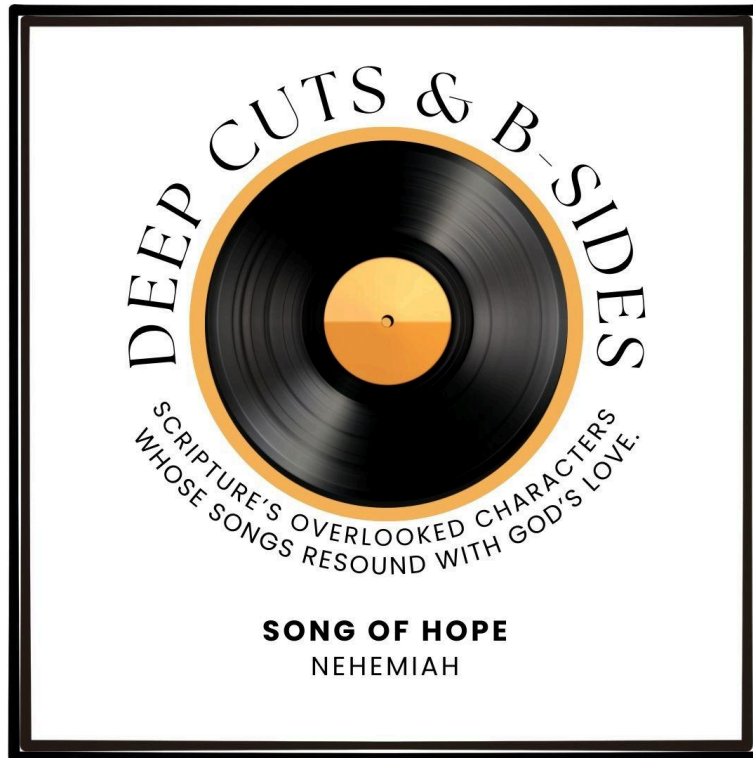


WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 23rd, 2025 | SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY | 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

FOREVER
Tom Andrew, Piano

CHRIS TOMLIN

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

IF CALL TO WORSHIP FROM ZEPHANIAH 3

MAREN REID

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

The Creator of the heavens and the earth is in your midst; you shall fear no more.

The Ageless One is a warrior

who gives victory;

who will rejoice over you with gladness;

who will renew you in divine love;

God will exult over you with loud singing.

God sings over us and we sing to God.

Come, let us worship God!

IF HYMN #475

COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

ROBINSON, 1758

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of resurrection, you call us to repent. You call us to turn our entire lives around so that we may hurry after you. We tend to turn in lesser degrees, though. We confess we are not as gripped by your holiness as we could be. We confess that in forgetting your holiness, we miss out on your grace. We try to settle for good enough, and see others as having greater need to return, repent, and rebuild. Will you show us what is within us that needs resurrection hope? Is there something we have categorized as unredeemable that you long to redeem? Forgive us for confessing with an agenda of remaining comfortable. Make us less comfortable with our settled ways, and more comfortable with the power of your grace and mercy.

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM ZEPHANIAH 3

The Lord has taken away the judgements against you.

The Lord has changed our shame into praise.

The Lord brings us home and gathers us in.

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 READING

NEHEMIAH 1:2 - 4 & 1:8 - 2:5

PAGES 750-751

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

NEHEMIAH (STAND STRONG)

JON EGAN

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

SECOND READING

NEHEMIAH 8:1 - 3 & 9 - 12

ED ROTTMAN

Holy wisdom, **holy Word.**

PAGES 761-762

SERMON

"SONG OF HOPE"

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – AN EXCERPT FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

JUST AS I AM (WOODWORTH)

WILLIAM BRADBURY ARR. AMY POTTER

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

PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI

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 #307

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

JOHN HUGHES, 1907

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

I POSTLUDE

WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER

JAMES MILTON BLACK

Tom Andrew, Organ

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! LITURGIST: MAREN REID

USHERS: CURT GREENLEE, DON GREENLEE, JACK GREENLEE AND JAXON GREENLEE

Children of all ages are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary with their families.

Our Nursery is also available for children of all ages and is staffed by at least two attendants at all times.

Children ages 3 through 5th grade are welcome to attend Sunday School following the Children's Moment.

Please let an Usher know if you have any questions about the Nursery or Sunday School.

Every Sunday, we join our voices together to affirm what we believe using our denomination's Book of Confessions or words from Scripture. Today's confession is from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, which was written when the two largest Presbyterian churches in the United States reunited in 1983 after splitting over the practice of slavery prior to the Civil War. This expressly Trinitarian confession calls the church's attention to God's sovereignty in the past, present and future and reminds us that the church is a refuge from the world, but not only that. The church is also always being reformed into the body by which Christ continues blessing all of creation and all of God's children.

Mission Drive: From February 2nd - March 2nd, we have collected items for Empower Boone Food Pantry! Thank you for your support!
February 23rd - Mac & Cheese | March 2nd - Canned Chicken, Tuna or Vegetables

Lent begins Ash Wednesday March 5th

Drive Thru Ashes: 9am - 9:30am, 11am - 11:30am & 5pm - 5:30pm

Worship at 6pm with the Imposition of Ashes

Join us for worship throughout **Lent** as we "**Journey to Jerusalem**" in the Gospel of Luke.

Our **Lenten Soup Study** meets **Wednesdays during Lent** beginning **March 12th 5:30pm - 7pm.**

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall to bring soup.

We will discuss the book *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande -
but all are welcome to join the discussion, even if you don't read!

Check out the credenza and bulletin board by the double doors leading to the Christian Ed wing for info and sign-ups! You can sign up there for Youth Group Lunches and Lenten Soup.

Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday 23rd	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11:15a F/P/E Meeting
Tuesday 25th	6p	Pipe Band & Drum Rehearsal
Thursday 27th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 2nd	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11:30a Diaconate Meeting

"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 & 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 Church Office.

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Caledonia, Illinois 61011



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Website: www.willowcreekpc.org
Social Media: <https://linktr.ee/wpcargyle>