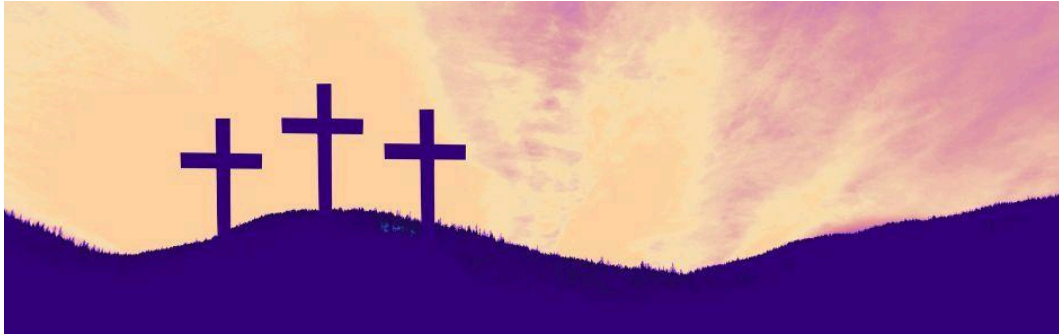


# WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 20TH, 2025 † EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE † 8:00AM



THE CHAPEL AT SCOTTISH ARGYLE CEMETERY

*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

CHIMING THE HOUR

BRANDON O'DELL AND MARISA O'DELL

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity: you have won victory over death!

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

† HYMN

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

DAVIDICA, 1708 & WESLEY, 1740

<sup>1</sup> Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

<sup>2</sup> Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia! who  
endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

<sup>3</sup> But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured. Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

<sup>4</sup> Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of new life, we gather in the cold and first glimpses of the sun celebrating the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus. We gather here, hoping for hope. Do we dare believe what we celebrate today? Can we find faith to shout, or even whisper: "Death, where is your sting?" We confess our fixation on what seems unchangeable to us. Change us to believe that all things can be made new. Embolden us to live your resurrection in a world that hungers for your love and forgiveness.**

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray,  
**but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls.**  
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            May the Peace of Christ be with you; **And also with you.**

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 20:1 - 18

We are witnesses to these things: the Messiah is risen from the dead. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PASCHAL HOMILY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Are there any who are devout lovers of God? Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival!  
**Are there any who are grateful servants? Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!**

Are there any weary from fasting? Let them now receive their due!

**If any have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their just reward.**

If any have come after the third hour, let them with gratitude join in the feast!

**Those who arrived after the sixth hour, let them not doubt; for they shall suffer no loss.**

Those who have delayed until the ninth hour, let them draw near without hesitation.

**And those who arrived only at the eleventh hour, let them not be afraid by reason of their delay.**

For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.

**The Lord gives rest to those who come at the eleventh hour, even as to those who labored from the first.**

The Lord has mercy upon the last and cares for the first; the Lord accepts the offering of every work.

**The Lord honors every deed and commends their intention.**

Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord, and, whether first or last, receive your reward.

**First and last alike, receive your reward. Rich and poor, rejoice together!**

Conscientious and lazy, celebrate the day! You who have kept the fast, and you who have not, rejoice, this day, for the table is bountifully spread!

**Feast royally, for the calf is fatted. Let no one go away hungry.**

Let all partake of the feast of faith. Let all receive the riches of goodness!

**Let no one lament their poverty, for the universal reign has been revealed.**

Let no one mourn their transgressions, for forgiveness has risen from the grave.

**Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free.**

The Lord has destroyed death by enduring it.

**The Lord vanquished hell by descending into it.**

The Lord put hell in turmoil even as it tasted of his flesh.

**Isaiah foretold this, proclaiming:**

"Hades was embittered when it encountered Thee in the lower regions".

**It was embittered, for it was eclipsed! It was embittered, for it was mocked!**

It was embittered, for it was purged! It was embittered, for it was abolished!

**It was embittered, for it was bound in chains! It took a body and came upon God!**

It seized earth and encountered Heaven!

**It took what it saw, but crumbled before what it had not seen!**

O death, where is your sting? O hell, where is your victory?

**Christ is risen, and you are overthrown! Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!**

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life reigns!

**Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in a tomb! For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Christ be glory and power forever and ever! Amen!**

I HYMN

WERE YOU THERE?

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL ARR. GAITHER, 1971

<sup>1</sup>Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)

<sup>2</sup>Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)

<sup>3</sup>Were you there when he rose up from the dead? (Were you there?)

Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when he rose up from the dead? (Were you there?)

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 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

BECAUSE HE LIVES

WILLIAM J. GAITHER, 1971

<sup>1</sup> God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus; He came to love, heal, and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

*Refrain: Because He lives I can face tomorrow; Because He lives all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.*

<sup>2</sup> How sweet to hold a newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy they give;  
But greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because He lives.

*Refrain*

<sup>3</sup> And then one day I'll cross the river; I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

*Refrain*

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

I POSTLUDE

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

Thank you to those who helped lead this worship service, especially to our Youth:  
*Argyle Greenlee, Piper Greenlee, Olivia Landi, Emily Monroe and Will Monroe*  
Thank you to our musician, Tom Andrew.

Following this service, all are invited to gather for breakfast (provided by the Session) at WCPC, an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:15am, and then worship with Communion in the sanctuary at 10am.

***"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 8:30am - 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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