

# WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 11TH, 2025 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 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 STAND.

PRELUDE

ROOM AT THE CROSS FOR YOU  
Tom Andrew, Organ

IRA STANPHILL

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

I CALL TO WORSHIP FROM HEBREWS 12

REBEKAH LANDI

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,  
**let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.**

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,  
**fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.**

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame,  
**and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners,  
**so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Come, let us worship God!**

I HYMN #223

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

WATTS, 1707; MASON, 1824

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all Wisdom, we don't like to be made to feel foolish. We don't like to feel ashamed. We confess that we will do a lot to avoid these feelings like shift blame or argue defensively. We lose our curiosity and find, instead, accusations and judgment of others. We confess our tendency to turn away from those we don't understand, and create lives that orbit around people who are perhaps too much like us. Help us find the comfort of your holy grace once again. Grace empowers us to admit when we are wrong. Grace allows us to be free from always having to be right. May we find your humility, and may we find joy in humility.**

## A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 & 21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:

**The old has gone, the new is here!**

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,

**so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

**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

1 CORINTHIANS 1:17 - 31

PAGE 1772 - 1773

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

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

THE CRUCIFIXION

SAMUEL BARBER

Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

#### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1 - 9

Holy wisdom, **holy Word.**

PAGE 1773

### SERMON

"THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE CROSS"

## OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

### MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

#### I HYMN #218

AH, HOLY JESUS

HEERMANN, 1630; BRIDGES, 1899;  
CRUGER, 1640

I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - PHILIPPIANS 2:5 – 11

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED

HANS LEO HASSLER

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 & 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 #826

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

KITCHIN, 1887; NEWBOLT, 1916;  
NICHOLSON, 1916; PROULX, 1985

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

MY MOTHER'S BIBLE

MILAN BERTRAND WILLIAMS (1893),  
CHARLES DAVIS TILLMAN

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! LITURGIST: REBEKAH LANDI

USHERS: LON & KATHY CLARK, MIKE LANDI AND OLIVIA LANDI

**MOTHER'S DAY** can be a day of celebration as well as a day of complexity and grief. If today is a day of celebration for you, your church family celebrates with you; if today is a day of sadness for you, your church family mourns with you. And, if today is just another day for you, your church family is here with you, too. Wherever today finds you, you are welcome here. If you find that today brings up something within you you'd like to discuss with a pastor, let Pastor Lauren or the Church Office know.

**MISSION DRIVE:** Thank you for supporting **Capron Elementary's** Faculty and Staff!

**YOUTH FUNDRAISERS**

Bidding closes **today** at 11:30am on our **Pew Bench Silent Auction!**

Do you need help with spring cleaning or yard work? Our **youth are for hire!** Sign up in the Fellowship Hall for a Sunday to hire two youth for two hours for \$100. Take the youth home with you after church, please provide a light lunch, and bring them back when their work is complete.

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All proceeds go to the Youth Group's fundraising efforts for their summer trip to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium in Louisville.

**COVER IMAGE:** Hochhalter, Cara B. When They Crucified Jesus

**A note from the Artist:** "How could I possibly create an image of Jesus on the cross? I avoided facing this most poignant and painful scene in the Christian story. Finally, I drew the crucifixion from above and behind. From this vantage point, we do see all that is going on below the cross... I realized that everyone (the soldiers and the disciples) are the same size. Perhaps in God's eyes, there is incredible love for each one of us in spite of our "rightness or wrongness." It is not so much who was good and who was bad; even the soldiers probably thought they were doing the right thing under orders. Perhaps we are to find ourselves along this winding path from grief and guilt to resurrection and reconciliation... Jesus saw the possibilities for good and God's infinite blessings, even in those who were seen as wrongdoers. In the face of this painful death, Jesus did not call on armies to protect him...and so, in his self-giving love, he was killed... However, this is not the end of the story."

From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. [retrieved April 30, 2025]. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59271>

The cross of Christ's crucifixion is central to our Christian faith.

And yet, how would you describe what the cross means?

For the next few weeks, our **sermon series** the **Wondrous Cross** will invite us to remain at the cross, lingering over the mystery of how God's great love came into the world, defeated death, and provided salvation.

**WCPC COOKBOOK** The Deacons need recipes of your family favorites and special potluck dishes. Please bring us a copy or email it to [recipes@willowcreekpc.org](mailto:recipes@willowcreekpc.org) as soon as possible. Thank you!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** June 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> This year we're asking the question: Is God a Farmer?

**AG DAY IN ARGYLE** Friday June 27<sup>th</sup> 5pm - 7pm Join us for fun with animals, farm equipment, and more!

**WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR**

<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	10a	<b>Mother's Day</b>
<small>Change for Change</small>		
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	6p	Worship, 10:30a Sunday School, 11a Fellowship
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	10a	Worship, 10:30a Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a May & June Deacon 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 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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