

# WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 18TH, 2025 † FIFTH 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

VICTORY IN JESUS

EUGENE M. BARTLETT

Tom Andrew, Piano

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.

**According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity.**

Cleanse me from my sin. I know my transgressions, my sin is always before me.

**Against you only I have sinned. You are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.**

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean. Let me hear joy and gladness.

**Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God.**

Renew a right spirit within me. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it.

**My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit. A broken and contrite heart you will not despise.**

**Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. Come, let us worship God!**

I HYMN #213

IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY

JOHN BOWRING, 1825; ITHAMAR CONKEY, 1849

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious Savior, we are quick to notice when things are unfair. We are quick to react to injustice. Sometimes our reactions are right - we are angered on your behalf at the treatment of your children. Sometimes, we are less right, and quite unrighteous. Sometimes perceived injustices are mere inconveniences. And sometimes, we are so distracted by what feels unfair to us that we do not notice how terribly someone else is being treated. We seek to oversimplify the doing of justice into something that we can manage, when every hint of injustice is an invitation to prayer and humility. May we find the way to your cross once again.**

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 Christ who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Christ 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

HABAKKUK 1:2 - 4

PAGE 1456

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

THEY CRUCIFIED MY LORD

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

The Monroe Family Singers

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

SERMON

"THE JUSTICE OF THE CROSS"

## OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

I HYMN #211

HEAR, O LORD, MY PLEA FOR JUSTICE

MORGAN, 1995; YOUNG, 1964

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

PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI

OFFERTORY

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

HORATIO SPAFFORD, PHILIP BLISS

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 #209

MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN

SAMUEL CROSSMAN, 1664; JOHN IRELAND, 1918

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

THINE IS THE GLORY

GEORGE F. HANDEL, RICHARD HOYLE TILLMAN

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! LITURGIST: BARB GREENLEE

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

### MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY MAY 25TH

**8am Worship** at the **Chapel** at Scottish Argyle Cemetery ~ 8901 Picken Road \* **Continental Breakfast** in the **Fellowship Hall** following the Service at the Cemetery Chapel \* **10am Worship** in the **Sanctuary**

**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 last few weeks, our **sermon series** the **Wondrous Cross** has invited 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. Next week, we are turning the page from the cross to the early church.

**YOUTH FUNDRAISER** 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, provide a light lunch, and bring them back when their work is complete. All proceeds go to the Youth Group's fundraising for their summer Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

**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!

**HANDBELL CHOIR** **Thursday, May 22nd** will be our last bell choir practice before we take a summer break. Practices will start up again mid to late August.

**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 18<sup>th</sup></b>	10a	Worship, 10:30a Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a Deacon Meeting
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	8a	Building & Grounds Meeting, 5:30p Worship and Music Meeting, 6p Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal - last one until August!
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>		<i>Last Day of Argyle Preschool</i>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	8a	Worship at the Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery - Continental Breakfast to follow in Fellowship Hall, 10a Worship, 10:30a Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E

**"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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