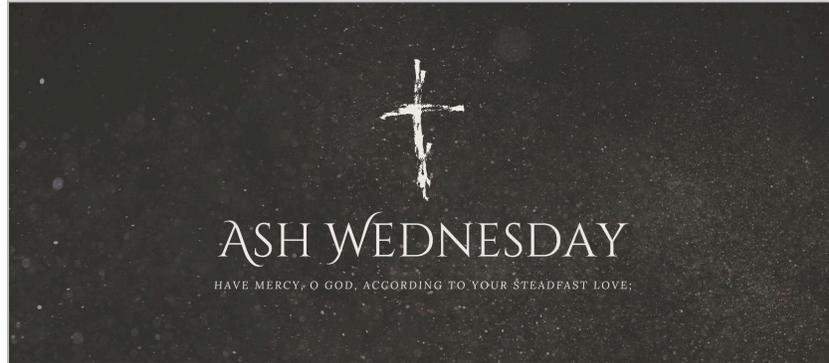


WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 18TH, 2026 | ASH WEDNESDAY | 6:00PM



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

WELCOME

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

‡ REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Beloved people of God, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin, and of our being grafted into Christ. Through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism we were made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptisms.

I ask you, therefore, once again to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we were baptized.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

I APOSTLES' CREED: RESPONSIVE

ED ROTTMAN

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty? **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

I THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI

I HYMN #701

LORD, PREPARE ME

JAMES QUINN, 1969;
DALE GROTHENHUIS, 1985

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 58:1 - 12

PAGES 1152 - 1153

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

REFLECTION

I HYMN #70 WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU?

JIM STRATHDEE, 1986

SECOND READING

PSALM 51

PAGE 889

Holy wisdom, **holy Word.**

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

silence is kept after each petition

For failing to love others as you have loved us...

God of grace, forgive us.

For wasting your gifts and hoarding our goods...

God of grace, forgive us.

For plundering the earth and abusing the planet...

God of grace, forgive us.

For fearing those who are strange to us...

God of grace, forgive us.

For ignoring those in need...**God of grace, forgive us.**

For losing heart and abandoning hope...

God of grace, forgive us.

For all the ways we turn from you...**God of grace, forgive us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen, so that you may live:

the steadfast love of the Lord never fails.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

I GLORIA PATRI

I PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the Peace of Christ be with you; **And also with you.**

I HYMN #215 WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS CARLTON R. YOUNG, 1965

I THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Our ancestors in the faith used ashes as a sign of our repentance, a symbol of the uncertainty and fragility of human life.

Like them, we have tasted the ashes of hopelessness; we have walked through the ashes of our loss and pain; we have stood knee-deep in the ashes of our brokenness.

God of all, out of the dust of creation you have formed us and given us life.

May these ashes not only be a sign of our repentance and death, but reminders of your gift of grace in Jesus the Christ.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of our Savior, **bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

As you exit, you are invited to allow the sign of the cross to be placed on your forehead or hand as a sign of our willingness to enter into the season of Lent.

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST, AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN. AMEN.

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY!

GREETER: STEVEN PICKEN | MUSICIAN: ELIZABETH O'LEARY
LITURGIST: ED ROTTMAN | USHERS: STEVE & DAYLE PAULSON

**BASKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE EXITS IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE
AN OFFERING.**

Our English word "Lent" comes from an Anglo-Saxon word which means "to lengthen" and is associated with the lengthening of days in the Spring. Dating back to the fourth century A.D., Lent is a period of reflection, abstinence and self-denial, following the example of Jesus Christ. The color for this liturgical season is purple, which reminds us this is a time of self-examination and discipline. During these days, we prepare our hearts for the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This Sunday **February 22nd** we begin our Lenten theme of "Virtues & Vices", inspired by the faith of medieval Christians.

This theme will be further explored at our **Lenten Soup Study** which will be on **Wednesdays in March from 5:30pm - 7pm**. If you'd like to choose a Wednesday to bring soup for everyone, the sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Lauren will be out of town following worship on Feb. 22nd through March 2nd. If a pastoral care emergency arises, please reach out to Pastor Tanya, Clerk of Session Rebekah Landi or Chairperson of the Deacons Mary Beth Gratz.

Pastor Tanya will lead worship and preach on Sunday, March 1st.

"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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