

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 | FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT | 10:00AM

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church Lent 2026

cultivating VIRTUES & uprooting VICES



“The LORD God put the human in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.”
- Genesis 2:15

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

WELCOME

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

I CALL TO WORSHIP

MAREN REID

For forty days and nights the rains fell, and the waters covered the face of the earth.

For forty years the people wandered, seeking the land of God's promise.

Moses spent forty days on the mountain, learning the commandments of God.

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness to hear the voice of God in the silence.

Jonah cried out to the people of Nineveh: Repent! Or in forty days you will perish.

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days and was tested by the devil.

As we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, so give us the grace of repentance that we may pass through the grave with him and be born again to eternal life. For he is the One who lived, and was crucified, dead, and buried, and rose again for us, Jesus our Savior. **Come, let us worship God!**

I HYMN #664

MORNING HAS BROKEN

ELEANOR FARJEON, 1931

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not been mindful of the needs of others. We have given into our own short tempers and quick frustrations rather than finding patience and kindness. We have made excuses for ourselves but not accepted the explanations of loved ones. We have given our energy and attention away thoughtlessly, rather than focusing on you. Will you draw our hearts near to you once more and convince us of your grace?

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

Are you thirsty for grace? Are you hungry for mercy? Listen, so that you may live:

The steadfast love of the Lord never fails.

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

GENESIS 2:15 - 17 & 3:1 - 7

PAGE 4 - 5

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

COLTER JOHN JOHNSON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

AR HYD Y NOS

Our sweet babe of God’s creation, we have been blessed.

You are loved with adoration, may you be blessed.

Lord please grant your loving wisdom, guide us, guard him, help us listen;

Let love lead us with your vision; May we be blessed.

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

ROMANS 5:12 - 19

PAGE 1753

Holy wisdom, **holy Word.**

SERMON

“ORIGINAL”

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

I HYMN #488

I WAS THERE TO HEAR YOUR BORNING CRY

JOHN C. YLVISAKER, 1985

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

STEAL AWAY

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

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

HYMN #188

JESUS LOVES ME!
First Verse

ANNA BARTLETT WARNER, 1859; DAVID RUTHERFORD MCGUIRE, 1971

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

COMMUNION

*You are invited to come forward down the center aisles.
You may choose to pull a piece from the common loaf or select a pre-cut piece of gluten free bread from the tray on the communion table.
You may dip your bread into the common cup or choose an individual cup from the tray on the communion table. If you need communion brought to you, we will gladly do so.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION 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 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 #250

IN THE BULB THERE IS A FLOWER

NATALIE SLEETH, 1986

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON, 1900;
J. ROSAMOND JOHNSON, 1905

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! ACOLYTES: EMMA LANDI & BENJAMIN RALSTON
GREETER: STEVE PICKEN | LITURGIST: MAREN REID
USHERS: CURT GREENLEE, DON GREENLEE, JACK GREENLEE AND JAXON GREENLEE

The **acolytes** light the candles at the beginning of the service, representing the light of Christ coming in. Then, they carry the light out of the sanctuary with the final hymn, encouraging us to follow Christ's light out into the world.

PRELUDE Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Elizabeth O'Leary, Pianist ROBERT ROBINSON, 1758

Every Sunday, we join our voices together to affirm what we believe using our denomination's Book of Confessions or words from Scripture. On Sundays when we celebrate baptisms, we always confess using the **Apostles' Creed**. As far back as the second century, a version of this creed has been used at baptisms. In the early church, candidates for membership in the church, having undergone a lengthy period of moral and doctrinal instruction, were asked at baptism to state what they believed. They responded in the words of this creed. When we affirm what we believe using these words, we become part of an echo and a chorus of Christians across time and place.

LENT: VIRTUES & VICES In medieval times, much was written for Christians to guide their daily lives with particular attention to avoiding vices and cultivating virtues. Throughout Lent, we will learn more about the classic virtues and vices. Lent - traditionally a season for fasting and restriction as the faithful have made space within their souls for the light of Christ - is the perfect time for this topic. In pursuit of a whole and holy life, what virtues might we choose to cultivate, and what vices might we try to uproot? Each Sunday the sermon will explore a different virtue and vice pair. Join us next Sunday as Pastor Tanya preaches on *Pride & Humility*.

LENT COVER IMAGE *Eden* by Edie Mae Herrel from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

Join us **Wednesdays in March 5:30pm - 7pm** for our **Lenten Soup Study**. We will share a simple meal and dive deeper into our Lenten theme "Virtues & Vices". If you would like to bring soup for the group, the sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. We will start meeting on Wednesday, **March 4th**.

Pastor Lauren will be **out of town** on study leave and vacation from this evening 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 next Sunday, March 1st.

SNACK DRIVE FOR CAPRON ELEMENTARY It's important for students to have plenty to eat throughout the schoolday, and some families need a little extra support in providing snacks. So we get to help! Please bring in **individually wrapped snacks** by **Sunday, March 16th**. The most requested items are: Cheez-Its, bags of popcorn, single cereal packs, pretzels (plain or cheese filled), GoGo Squeez applesauce, fruit snacks, animal crackers, Goldfish and saltine crackers. **Please avoid any peanut products.** Thank you to the Youth Group for leading this Mission Drive!

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 22 nd	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship; 11:15a F/P/E Meeting
Tuesday 24 th	6p	Pipe Band
Thursday 26 th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 1 st	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Youth Group

"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 - 1pm. 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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