

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 15, 2026 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT | 10:00AM

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church Lent 2026

cultivating VIRTUES & uprooting VICES



Sloth &
Fortitude

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

‡ CALL TO WORSHIP

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!**

‡ HYMN #442

JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

CHARLOTTE ELLIOTT, 1834;
WILLIAM BATCHELDER BRADBURY, 1849

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy, holy, holy God, forgive us for our striving. We try so hard to earn your love and to hide our imperfections from others. We try so hard to make something of ourselves, forgetting you already delight in us as we are. We work hard - and we're not even sure if that's something to confess, but we do confess that we struggle to rest. We don't always - or ever - take a Sabbath and simply rest in your love. Will you help us to find a right and holy relationship with the work you have given us to do? Will you help us to believe in grace?

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM ISAIAH 55

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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

WE'RE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CRUCIFIED MY LORD?

ARR. DOUGLAS E. WAGNER

Willow Creek Bell Choir

INVITATION TO THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

REFLECTIONS ON "SLOTH & FORTITUDE"

GENESIS 2:4 - 5, 7 & 15

PAGES 3 - 4

LUKE 10:25 - 37

PAGES 1612 - 1613

MICAH 6:8

PAGE 1447

PSALM 46:10

PAGE 885

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

I HYMN #797

WE CANNOT MEASURE HOW YOU HEAL

JOHN L. BELL & GRAHAM MAULE, 1989

I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR
Tom Andrew, Piano

STUART TOWNEND

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

I HYMN #70

WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU?
*What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?
Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.
To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.*

JIM STRATHDEE, 1986

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...**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest...**

Great is the mystery of faith. Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

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 CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN?

CHARLES WESLEY; THOMAS CAMPBELL

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! GREETER: REBEKAH LANDI
USHERS: STEVE & DAYLE PAULSON | LITURGISTS: ARGYLE GREENLEE, PIPER GREENLEE, OLIVIA LANDI,
WILL MONROE, CHARLIE SHIPTON, MOLLY SHIPTON & BENJAMIN RALSTON

PRELUDE *I Surrender All* Willow Creek Bell Choir ARR. SANDRA EITHUN

There is no **Children's Sunday School** today. Children of all ages are always welcome in our sanctuary, and the Nursery is an option as well. There **will** be Children's Sunday School on March 22nd and March 29th.

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 for *Wrath & Meekness*.

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 study our Lenten theme "Virtues & Vices". If you would like to bring soup for the group, the sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

SNACK DRIVE FOR CAPRON ELEMENTARY Thank you to the Youth Group for leading this Mission Drive, and thank you, congregation, for your wonderful generosity! The snacks will be delivered this week, and we'll report back next Sunday with a final count of all that you gave.

HYMN OF THE MONTH: *We Cannot Measure How You Heal* is a hymn written in 1989. Which, as far as hymnody goes, makes it quite new. The tune is familiar and the text is so very appropriate for the Lenten season when we are all trying to set things right in our lives. Maybe we're trying to eat more healthy, or trying to repair some damage our words have caused, or trying to trust more in the Lord for strength, or planning to put more scripture study into our routines. Lent is a time when we realize how broken we are and how we can turn to the Lord to help us heal our bodies, minds, relationships and broken spirits. This hymn gives us hope that through Christ we can bring love into difficult situations, we can find ways to make amends for things we've said or done, and we can trust in the Lord to help us and forgive us when we fail. And the ways the Lord accomplishes these things may surprise us! - Dianne Londo

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 15th	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship Snacks Due for Snack Drive
Tuesday 17th	5:30p	Music & Worship Meeting, 6p Pipe Band Saint Patrick's Day 🍀
Wednesday 18th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 5:30p Lenten Soup Study
Thursday 19th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 22nd	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship

"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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