

# WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 22, 2026 | FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT | 10:00AM

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church Lent 2026

## cultivating VIRTUES & uprooting VICES



Wrath &  
Meekness

### 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

IF CALL TO WORSHIP

APRIL ROTTMAN

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!**

IF HYMN #41

O WORSHIP THE KING, ALL GLORIOUS ABOVE!

ROBERT GRANT, 1833; JOSEPH MARTIN KRAUS, 1784

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy, Just and Merciful God, we come to you seeking mercy for ourselves. But we confess that sometimes rather than mercy we long for your wrath to rain down on those we would call enemies. We want others to pay for their mistakes, but we want to be forgiven for our flaws. We want others to get what we think they deserve, but we long for the grace we could never earn. We confess these longings to you, and ask that you give us a longing to be gracious and merciful to all of your children.**

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.**

**INVITATION TO THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 11:28 - 30

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The Gospel of our Risen Savior. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

THOMAS A. DORSEY, 1936

Elizabeth O'Leary, Piano

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

JOB 40:6 & 8 - 14

ED ROTTMAN

Holy wisdom, **holy Word.**

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SERMON

"WRATH & MEEKNESS: VIRTUE OR VICE?"

**OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE**

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

I HYMN #183

COME TO ME, O WEARY TRAVELER

SYLVIA G. DUNSTAN, 1991

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

I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

ROBERT LOWRY, 1872

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 #797

WE CANNOT MEASURE HOW YOU HEAL

JOHN L. BELL & GRAHAM MAULE, 1989

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 HYMN #307

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK, 1930

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY!

GREETER: BRENDA BENNING | LITURGIST: APRIL ROTTMAN

USHERS: STEVE PICKEN AND ED ROTTMAN

**PRELUDE** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* Elizabeth O'Leary, Piano BY *FREDERICK MAKER, 1881*

**LENT: VIRTUES & VICICES** 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?

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

Join us this **Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm - 7pm** for our final **Lenten Soup Study**. We will share a simple meal and dig deeper into our Lenten theme "Virtues & Vices".

**CANDY FOR THE EASTER EGG HUNT** Please bring individually wrapped candy that can fit inside a plastic Easter egg by next **Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>!**

**DIANNE'S 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!

### HOLY WEEK

**Palm Sunday** March 29<sup>th</sup> Palm Processional

**Maundy Thursday** April 2<sup>nd</sup> **Potluck & Communion Service** Fellowship Hall at 6pm

**Good Friday** April 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Holy Saturday** April 4<sup>th</sup> Chapel open at Scottish Argyle Cemetery 8901 Picken Rd. Caledonia

**Easter Sunday** April 5<sup>th</sup> **8am** Sunrise Service at the Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery

**9am** Pancake Breakfast at WCPC **9:15am** Egg Hunt at WCPC

**10am** Worship in the Sanctuary with Handbell Choir & Communion

### WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>		<b>Argyle Preschool Spring Break - No School 3/23 - 3/27</b>
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	6p	Pipe Band
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	5:30p	Lenten Soup Study
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship <b>Palm Sunday</b> 🌿

**"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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