

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 8, 2026 | THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT | 10:00AM

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church Lent 2026

cultivating VIRTUES & uprooting VICES



Love
& Envy

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 #14

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

PIERPOINT, 1864; KOCHER, 1838; MONK, 1861

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Merciful God, we confess we did not hear you when you called us "beloved". We confess that we did not believe you when you said that you delight in us. We confess that since we have a hard time believing that we are completely loved, we have a hard time loving completely. We have failed to love those you have commanded us to love: our neighbors, our enemies, ourselves. We have forgotten that you are love. Remind us once again.

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING,
Holy wisdom, **holy Word.**

JEREMIAH 31:1 - 3

PAGE 1225

SPECIAL MUSIC

AMAZING GRACE
Mandy Nelson, Flute

ARR. ANTHONY EVERT

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1 - 13

PAGES 1786 - 1787

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

SERMON

"THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE"

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

I HYMN #366

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

CHARLES WESLEY, 1747;
ROWLAND HUGH PRICHARD, 1831

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

PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI

OFFERTORY

TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

ARR. JAMES MICHAEL STEVENS

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 #215

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS
First & Third Verse

CARLTON R. YOUNG, 1965

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 #301

LET US BUILD A HOUSE

MARTY HAUGEN, 1994

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! GREETER: SHANNON REAGAN
LITURGIST: APRIL ROTTMAN | USHER: KATHERINE RALSTON AND MATTHEW RALSTON

PRELUDE *The Gift of Love* Tom Andrew, Organ *HAL HOPSON*

Every Sunday we join our voices together to **affirm what we believe** using our denomination's Book of Confessions or words from Scripture. The **Nicene Creed** is our most ecumenical creed - more Christians throughout time and around the world have confessed their faith using these words than any other confession or creed, making it especially appropriate for Sundays when we celebrate Communion.

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 *Sloth & Fortitude*.

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.

This Wednesday March 11th we will finish our discussion of *Pride & Humility*, and dig deeper into today's theme: *Love & Envy*.

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 15th**. 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!

Israel Language in Worship: In Scripture, hymns and liturgy, "Israel" refers to ancient Israel, not the modern political state. In Scripture, "Israel" can mean the collective name of the twelve tribes descended from Jacob, the nation of Israel as a whole, or during the period of the divided Monarchy, the name of the Northern Kingdom. As we seek to be faithful interpreters of Scripture, we pray for the day of peace and justice for all.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 8th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15 F/P/E Meeting
Tuesday 10th	6p	Session, 6p Pipe Band
Wednesday 11th	5:30p	Lenten Soup Study
Thursday 12th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday 13th		Youth Retreat at Stronghold 3/13 - 3/14
Sunday 15th	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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