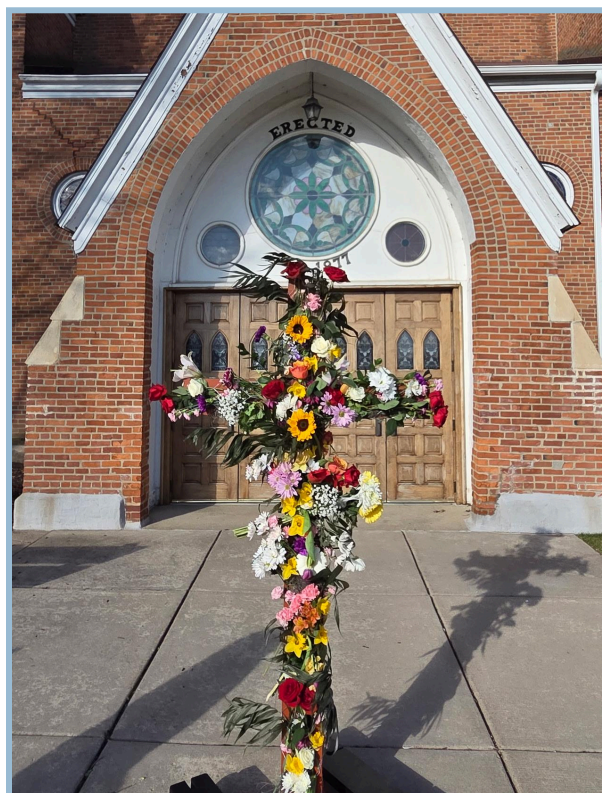


WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 12TH 2026 | SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER | 10:00AM



WITNESSES TO THE RESURRECTION: A SERVICE OF SCRIPTURE & HYMNS

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 HONOR GOD BY STANDING.

PRELUDE

I COME WITH JOY
Tom Andrew, Organ

BRIAN WREN

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

IF CALL TO WORSHIP: LITANY FOR EASTER

REBEKAH LANDI

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

That Christ died for our sins, and was buried, and rose again on the third day.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

He appeared to Peter, and to the twelve, and to many faithful witnesses.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

At last he came to us, that we might come to believe and proclaim this good news to the world.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed! Come, let us worship God!

IF HYMN #664

MORNING HAS BROKEN

ELEANOR FARJEON, 1931; BEVERLY A. HOWARD, 2012

I PRAYER OF ADORATION

Glory to you, O God: you have won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life. Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life. Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us into the truth. Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

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.

BAPTISM REAFFIRMATION & THANKSGIVING

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.

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the new life you raise up in us through the mystery of our baptism - the sorrow of the heavy cross, the surprise of the empty tomb, the love that death could not destroy.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, poured out upon us in baptism, fill us with the joy of resurrection, so that we may be a living sign of your new heaven and new earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I HYMN #488

I WAS THERE TO HEAR YOUR BORNING CRY

JOHN C. YLVISAKER, 1985

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we ignore the cries of the oppressed, and are too overwhelmed by calls for peace to do anything. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news. In Christ, you are a new creation:
the old is gone, the new has come!

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

I HYMN #266

JOY TO THE WORLD

ISAAC WATTS, 1719; THOMAS HAWEIS, 1792; SAMUEL WEBBE JR., 1808

I PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 28:1-2 & 5-6
The Gospel of our Risen Savior. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

KAILEY BERG
PAGES 1549 - 1550

SPECIAL MUSIC CHRIST HAS RISEN WHILE EARTH SLUMBERS
Kathy Clark and Stephen A. Clark, Vocalists

WELSH MELODY

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

GOSPEL READING JOHN 20:19 - 21 & 24 - 29
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

STEPHEN A. CLARK
PAGES 1686 - 1687

HYMN #266 SJ* WERE YOU THERE
1st & 4th Verses

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL

GOSPEL READING LUKE 24:13 - 24 & 28 - 31
Holy wisdom, **holy Word.**

DIANNE LONDO
PAGES 1642 - 1643

HYMN #257 THE RISEN CHRIST
1st, 3rd & 4th Verses

NIGEL WEAVER, 1993; WALTER GREATORREX, 1916

GOSPEL READING JOHN 21:1 - 12

PAGES 1687 - 1688

We are witnesses to these things: the Messiah is risen from the dead. **Alleluia! Amen!**

I HYMN #721 LORD, YOU HAVE COME TO THE LAKESHORE
1st & 3rd Verses

GABARAIN, 1979; SUPPE, LOCKWOOD
AND GUTTIEREZ-ACHON, 1988

I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - FROM PHILIPPIANS 2:5 - 11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY NEAR THE CROSS

WILLIAM DOANE

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 & BENEDECTION

POSTLUDE

YOU SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY

STEFFI RUBIN

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! GREETER: MOLLY SHIPTON

LITURGIST: REBEKAH LANDI | USHERS: MIKE LANDI AND OLIVIA LANDI

**When the hymn number is followed by "SJ", it's in the blue "Sing Joyfully" hymnal.
All other hymns can be found in the purple "Glory to God" hymnal.*

COVER IMAGE Maren Reid

DIANNE'S HYMN OF THE MONTH: "HE LIVES!" This hymn, #285 in Sing Joyfully, was written by Presbyterian minister and hymn writer Alfred H. Ackley in 1933. While nearly 100 years old, this hymn is filled with joy and energy and is still loved by congregations everywhere. Pastor Ackley wrote over 1500 hymns, but this one has endured. He wrote it in response to a couple of things: First he heard a radio show host (on Christian radio) say that whether or not Christ rose from the dead didn't matter; only that he led a good life! The other thing was a question posed to him asking: *Why should I worship a dead man?* Wanting to respond to these comments and questions, and knowing that Christ's resurrection is the heart of the Christian faith, Pastor Ackley began writing and the hymn, "He Lives" was born. The risen Lord, our personal relationship with Him, and the promise of His second coming are all brought out in this wonderful hymn. May we go into the season of Eastertide with full hearts knowing, "He Lives"!

NEW TO WILLOW CREEK? Join us next **Sunday, April 19th** at 11:30am to learn all about our wonderful church and how to get involved! We will discuss how to become a member, but this class is for anyone who simply wants to learn more about our church. We will be done by 1:30pm.

Childcare and lunch are provided. Please RSVP to Office@WillowCreekPC.org or to Pastor Lauren.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|---|
| Sunday 12th | 10a | Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Deacon Meeting, 11:30a Youth Group |
| Tuesday 13th | 6p | Pipe Band |
| Wednesday 14th | 8a | Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant |
| Thursday 15th | 6p | Bell Rehearsal |
| Sunday 19th | 10a | Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship |

SAVE THE DATE!

RISE AGAINST HUNGER Sunday April 26th 10am Brief **Communion** service in the Sanctuary followed by a meal packing **service project** in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we pack over 10,000 meals in just a couple of hours! There are jobs for all ages and abilities, and childcare available - all are welcome!

We need a lot of good snacks to fuel our work! Please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 22nd - 25th This year's theme is outer space!

"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 8:30a - 1p. If you'd like to set up a time to visit Pastor Lauren or Pastor Tanya, please reach out to the Church Office.

Phone: (815) 885-3455
7300 Belvidere Road
Caledonia, Illinois 61011



Email: office@willowcreekpc.org
Website: www.willowcreekpc.org
Social Media: <https://linktr.ee/wpcargyle>