

# WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 5TH, 2026 | EASTER SUNDAY | 10:00AM



## 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

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY  
Dianne Londo, Piano and Tom Andrew, Organ

WESLEY, ARR. ETHEL SMITH

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

IF CALL TO WORSHIP

MARY BETH GRATZ

I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.  
The stone has been rolled away. **Christ is not in the tomb.**  
Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**  
Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**  
Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**  
Alleluia! **Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us worship God!**

IF HYMN #223

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

WATTS, 1707 & MASON, 1824

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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 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

#### FIRST GOSPEL READING

JOHN 20:1 - 10

PAGES 1685 - 1686

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

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS  
Treble Bell Quartet

ARR. JASON W. KING

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

#### SECOND GOSPEL READING

JOHN 20:11 - 18

BRYAN AMBROSE

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

PAGE 1686

#### SERMON

"THE DARK BEFORE THE DAWN"

## OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

### MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

#### I HYMN #250

IN THE BULB THERE IS A FLOWER

NATALIE SLEETH, 1986

### I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - APOSTLES' 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.**

### CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

ARR. JASON W. KING

Bass Bell Quartet

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 1st Verse

AMERICAN FOLK HYMN

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul,  
for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

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, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.**  
**Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might**  
**be to our God forever and ever!...**

According to Christ's commandment: **We remember his death,**  
**we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

COMMUNION

*We hold the bread and partake together, celebrating that Christ joins us into one united body. We drink the cup as it comes to us, rejoicing that Christ comes to us as individuals and loves us just as we are.*

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 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 #232

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

DAVIDICA, 1708; WESLEY, 1740

I CHARGE AND BENEDECTION

POSTLUDE

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION!

ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! GREETERS: ED & APRIL ROTTMAN  
ACOLYTES: KAILEY BERG AND EMMA LANDI | LITURGISTS: BRYAN AMBROSE AND MARY BETH GRATZ  
USHERS: STEVE PICKEN, KATHERINE RALSTON, MATTHEW RALSTON AND JOHN REID

*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.*

**NURSERY** We welcome children of all ages and all of their laughter and whispers in the sanctuary at all times. And also, if caregivers would prefer, the Nursery is available during this worship service.

**NOTES ON TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE:**

Throughout Lent, we practice the ancient tradition of "burying the alleluia" as we contemplate our mortality and shout *hosanna* (Lord, save us!). Today, we shout with joy that Christ is risen indeed, **alleluia!** Typically, our worship service includes a *prayer of confession*, but today we pray together a **Thanksgiving for Baptism** - not because we think we are no longer sinful, but because on this day of resurrection, we confess our freedom from sin by giving thanks for the gift of Baptism. All can give thanks for this gift - whether you've been baptized or not, the hope of new life persists for all. The *beginnings* of the *Thanksgiving for Baptism* and the *Great Prayer of Thanksgiving* are similar, reminding us of the connection between the **sacraments** of Baptism and Communion. It is indeed right to give our thanks and praise!

**FLOWERING CROSS** This tradition of adding flowers to a bare cross dates back as far as the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The empire intended the cross to be a symbol of death, but it became a symbol of resurrection hope. Thank you for adding flowers to the cross and helping us share this visual representation of the miracle of Easter with our community.

**EASTER FLOWERS**

**Jack & Jean Greenlee** In Loving Memory of Todd Greenlee & All of Our Lost Loved Ones  
**Kathy Meyer & Family** In Loving Memory of Roger L. Meyer, Halbraber Parents & Our Parents  
**Dianne Londo & Family** In Loving Memory of Richard Londo  
**The Jim Ralston Family** In Loving Memory of Jim Ralston  
**Ed & April Rottman** In Loving Memory of Bill & Freeda McGaughy and Ken & Laurita Rottman  
**Carolyn L. Wheeler** In Loving Memory of Loved Ones  
**Shelly Williams** In Loving Memory of Doug Williams

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**RISE AGAINST HUNGER** Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>

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!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> This year's theme is outer space!

**WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR**

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	10a	Happy Easter! Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	6p	Pipe Band, 6p Session
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Deacon Meeting, 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, please reach out to the office.

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