

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 10TH, 2026 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 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

CONCERTO IN CHORDS #2

BY DAVID CARR GLOVER

Molly Shipton, Piano

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

‡ CALL TO WORSHIP FROM PSALM 66

REBEKAH LANDI

Bless our God, let the sound of praise be heard!

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what God has done for me.

I cried aloud to the Lord! And truly God has listened.

The Lord has heard the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer.

God loves me with a steadfast love. Come, let us worship God!

‡ HYMN #12

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

WALTER CHALMERS SMITH, 1867

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, will you forgive us for having such a hard time believing that you really, really love us? We don't believe that you have accepted us, so we seek acceptance by excluding others and trying to protect ourselves from being hurt. We don't believe in your grace so we become defensive when others reflect back to us our flaws. We confess that our lives are not shaped by your love. Can you help us to believe in your love a little more today, and help us show your love to others?

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM 1 PETER 3

Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.

Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are saved!

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

ACTS 17:19 - 31

PAGE 1724

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

IT IS NO SECRET WHAT GOD CAN DO

BY STUART HAMBLIN

Monroe Family Singers

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 14:15 - 21

PAGE 1676

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

SERMON

"SEEKERS"

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

I HYMN #310 SJ

I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED

DANIEL W. WHITTLE

I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - AN EXCERPT FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

KUM BA YAH

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

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 & 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 #686

GOD OF OUR LIFE

HUGH THOMSON KERR, 1916; PURDAY, 1860; WEAVER, 1986

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

JESUS LOVES EVEN ME

PHILIP P. BLISS

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! GREETER: SHANNON REAGAN

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

MOTHER'S DAY can be a day of celebration as well as a day of complexity and grief. If today is a day of celebration for you, your church family celebrates with you; if today is a day of sadness for you, your church family mourns with you. And, if today is just another day for you, your church family is here with you, too. Wherever today finds you, you are welcome here. If you find that today brings up something that you'd like to discuss with a pastor, let Pastor Lauren or the Church Office know.

In Scripture, hymns and liturgy, "**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. When we use "Israel" in worship, we are not referring to the modern political state.

As we seek to be faithful interpreters of Scripture, we pray for the day of peace and justice for all.

Every Sunday, we join our voices together to **affirm what we believe** using our denomination's Book of Confessions or words from Scripture. History Professor Jaroslav Pelikan once said this: "My faith life, like that of everyone else, fluctuates. There are ups and downs and hot spots and cold spots and boredom and ennui and all the rest...And so I'm not asked on a Sunday morning: 'What do you believe?'

I'm not asked to sit down with a three-by-five index and write down what I happen to believe today.

Instead, with a common confession, we answer the question "What do you believe" as a member of a community which now for a millennium and a half has said: We believe in One God."

This sentiment is part of why we use the Book of Confessions. Today's confession is from

A Brief Statement of Faith, which was written when the two largest Presbyterian churches

in the United States reunited in 1983 after splitting over the practice of slavery prior to the Civil War.

This expressly Trinitarian confession calls the church's attention to God's sovereignty in the past, present and future, and reminds us that the church is not only for us - not only a refuge from the world -

but the church is also always being reformed into the body of Christ in order to

bless all of creation and all of God's children.

DIANNE'S HYMN OF THE MONTH: "I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED!" This month I chose an old gospel hymn that I have enjoyed since I was a girl: number 310 in Sing Joyfully. *I Know Whom I Have Believed* was written by Daniel W. Whittle. Living 1840-1901, his commitment to Christ happened during the end of his time in the Union Army during the Civil War. While he had attended church and Sunday school as a child,

he didn't give his life to Christ until he was trying to help another dying soldier who asked that Daniel pray for him. It was then that it became clear that the spirit was moving him. He realized what a mystery faith is and many of his hymns reflect that. Though born in Massachusetts, he moved to Chicago where

he became an evangelist, and developed a close relationship with Dwight L. Moody.

As we move through the last weeks of Eastertide and on to Pentecost, it's a good time to wonder and contemplate the mystery of faith and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 22nd - 25th God's love is **Out of this World!**

Registration forms are available on the credenza in the Fellowship Hall and on the Church Office door.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 10th

Mother's Day

10a Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship

Tuesday 12th

6p Pipe Band

Sunday 17th

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, 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>