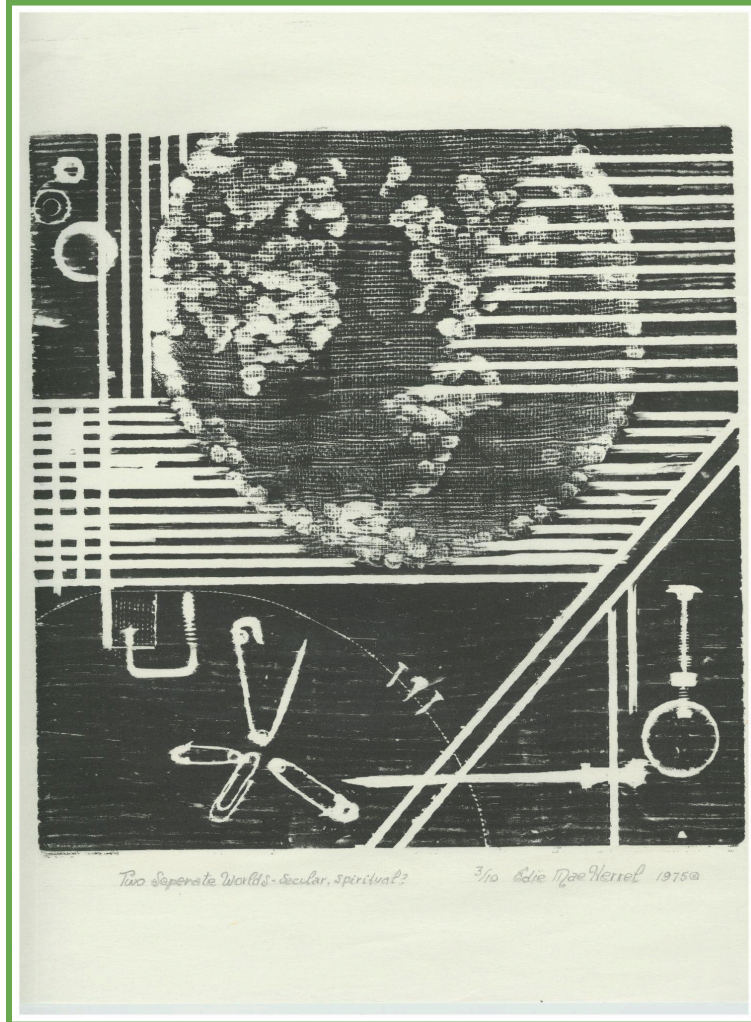


WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MAY 17TH, 2026 | SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 10:00AM



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

I AM HIS AND HE IS MINE

GEORGE W. ROBINSON

Tom Andrew, Organ

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

IF CALL TO WORSHIP FROM PSALM 68

BARB GREENLEE

Let God rise up; let God's enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee.

But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God! Sing to God; sing praises!

Lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds!

Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness
the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God.

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord!

God is powerful! Blessed be God! Come, let us worship God!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of every time and place, we confess we often rush through the days you have given us. We hurry, hurry, hurry from task to task, forgetting that you have not called us to love tasks, but rather, you have called us to love you, ourselves, and our neighbors. We confess that our hurrying and our to-do lists distract us from loving and serving. We confess that we let impatience dictate our treatment of others, instead of being led by grace and mercy. We confess that we are not attentive enough to the moments you have given us. Will you help us to see each day as a gift, and help us to live each hour for your glory?

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM 1 PETER 5

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that God may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on God, because God cares for you.

The God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, will restore, support and strengthen you. To God be the power forever and ever!

In 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

JOHN 17:1 - 11

PAGES 1679 - 1680

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE
Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL; ARR. MARK HAGER

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

ACTS 1:6 - 14

ED ROTTMAN

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

PAGE 1691

SERMON

"A SABBATH DAY'S JOURNEY"

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 - 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.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,

and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles

rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,

engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism,

feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,

and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing,

to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,

to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

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

I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

ROBERT LOWERY, 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

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 #310 SJ

I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED

DANIEL W. WHITTLE

I CHARGE & BENEDECTION

SONG PERMISSIONS CCLI COPYRIGHT LICENSE 1207686, SIZE A/ONELICENSE A-725962

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! LITURGIST: BARB GREENLEE
 USHERS: CURT GREENLEE, DON GREENLEE, JACK GREENLEE AND JAXON GREENLEE
 *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 *Two Separate Worlds Secular and Spiritual* by Edie Mae Herrel 1975

Herrel, Edie Mae. *Two Separate Worlds Secular and Spiritual*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59846> [retrieved May 15, 2026]

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. 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.

SUNDAY MAY 24TH - PENTECOST

8am Memorial Day Sunday Worship at the **Chapel** at Scottish Argyle Cemetery 8901 Picken Road
Continental Breakfast in the **Fellowship Hall** following the Service at the Cemetery Chapel
10am Worship in the **Sanctuary** – **please wear RED to celebrate Pentecost!**

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.

GARDEN BEDS Have you all heard about the wish to have some raised garden beds at Willow Creek? The plan is to build two beds this year, then add one or two more next year. We are getting a late start, but we have time to plant tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, maybe some pole beans. We are planning on a garden bed building morning on **Saturday, May 23rd at 9:30am**. We sure could use all the help we can get. Maybe, if everything goes well, we can all have some fresh produce for our efforts! Questions? Contact Mary Beth Gratz or Pat Nortch.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 17th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship
Tuesday 19th	8a	Buildings & Grounds Meeting, 5:30p Music & Worship Meeting, 6p Pipe Band
Wednesday 20th	8a	Mens Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 21st	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 24th	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>