

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 3RD, 2026 | 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 10:00A.M.



OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Come, celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ with us! All are invited to sing, pray and participate in liturgy.

IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO STAND.

PRELUDE

PUT YOUR HAND IN THE HAND
Tom Andrew, Piano

CHRISTOPHER NORTON, RICHARD LACY

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

IF CALL TO WORSHIP FROM PSALM 31

SHANNON REAGAN

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge. Do not let me ever be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me. Incline your ear to me and rescue me quickly.

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;

For your name's sake lead me and guide me;

Into your hand I commit my spirit;

You have redeemed me, O Lord!

Our God is faithful! Come, let us worship God!

IF HYMN #150

AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

WILLIAM CHATTERTON DIX, 1858

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we have lost our way. We long to love others as you have loved us, but we find impatience and frustration and judgment instead. We confess that other paths tempt us - the paths of selfishness and solitude. But you have called us into generosity and vulnerability. Will you help us to find the path of your footsteps once again?

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON - FROM 1 PETER 2

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of the One who called you out of darkness into marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people.

Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

† 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.

† 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

MATTHEW 2:1 - 12

PAGES 1497 - 1498

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

THERE WILL BE PEACE IN THE VALLEY FOR ME

THOMAS A. DORSEY, ARR. JASON COLEMAN

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SECOND GOSPEL READING

JOHN 14:1 - 6

ED ROTTMAN

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

PAGE 1675

SERMON

"TROUBLE"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

† 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. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

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

OH LORD, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL

KEITH GREEN

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

PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI

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 #343

WHERE CROSS THE CROWDED WAYS OF LIFE

FRANK MASON NORTH, 1903

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

IT IS NO SECRET

STUART HAMBLÉN

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! GREETER: RON MUZZARELLI
LITURGIST: SHANNON REAGAN | USHERS: JOHN REID AND ED ROTTMAN

COVER ART by 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.*

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.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER Thank you so much for your hard work last Sunday!

We packed 10,584 meals in record time! It's not too late to donate: each meal costs about 40¢.

A donation of **\$10 covers the cost of twenty-five meals** for folks in need.

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 3rd	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E Meeting
Tuesday 5th	6p	Pipe Band, 6p Session
Wednesday 6th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 7th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 10th		<i>Mother's Day</i>
	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 & 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.

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