

# WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2026 | 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | 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

HE LEADETH ME  
Tom Andrew, Organ

WILLIAM B. BRADBURY

WELCOME & SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

| CALL TO WORSHIP FROM PSALM 18

STEPHEN A. CLARK

I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.

**My God is my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, my salvation, and my stronghold.**

I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, so I shall be saved.

**In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help.**

God heard my voice! My cry reached God's ears! Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations of the mountains trembled. Smoke went up from God's nostrils, God bowed the heavens and came down.

**God came swiftly upon the wings of the wind. God reached down from on high; God took me.**

God drew me out of mighty waters. God delivered me from my strong enemy.

**The Lord was my support. God delivered me because God delighted in me.**

**Come, let us worship God!**

| HYMN #12

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

WALTER CHALMERS SMITH, 1867

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God who creates, hears, sees and saves: forgive us for not believing all of these things to be true about you. Forgive us also for failing to believe we are worth saving. Of course we are - you made us, and you made a way to forgive us. Forgive us for trying to hide the worst of ourselves from you, and forgive us for believing that our neediness - which we also try to hide - is a failure. Will you give us grace to accept our humanity and vulnerability? Will you forgive us for not graciously accepting the humanity, vulnerability and shortcomings of others, and will you help us to be more like you?**

## A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM PSALM 18

The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation.  
**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

LUKE 7:36 - 39 & 44 - 48 & 50b

PAGES 1604 - 1605

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

## SPECIAL MUSIC

GIVE ME JESUS  
Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL; ARR. MARK HAYES

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

GENESIS 16:1 - 16

PAGES 21 - 22

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

## SERMON

"A HANDMAID'S TALE"

## OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

## MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

## I HYMN #30

O GOD, IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY

WILLIAM COWPER, 1773

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – AN EXCERPT FROM THE CONFESSION OF BELHAR

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

**We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

We believe:

that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;

**that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;**

that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;

**that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;**

that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;

**that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;**

that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;

**that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged;**

that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

**We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things. Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

THE GIFT OF LOVE

ENGLISH FOLK MELODY, ADAPT. HOPSON

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 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 AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

## OUR DELIVERER

SHAKER MUSIC

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY!

GREETER: STEVE PICKEN | LITURGIST: STEPHEN A. CLARK | USHERS: MIKE LANDI AND OLIVIA LANDI

***The service is being live-streamed and archived through our social media channels.******While this videography focuses on worship leaders, participants may appear in the service recordings.***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 affirmation, from the **Confession of Belhar**, has its roots in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. It was first drafted in 1982 by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church as a protest against a heretical theological stance that used the Bible and the Confessions to justify harsh and unjust systems. The PCUSA approved Belhar as part of our Book of Confessions at the 222nd General Assembly (2016).**AG DAY IN ARGYLE** is **Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 4pm!** Invite friends and join us in the fun for all ages with horse and wagon rides, animals, farm equipment, snacks and more - all for free!***Can you bring a pie?*** Sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.And **please bring in** rinsed out empty **aluminum cans** (like soup and vegetable cans) for a fun project kids will make at Ag Day!**SNACKS FOR CAPRON** It's a new school year, and Capron Elementary School has reached out to us asking if we can help again with providing individually packed, non-perishable snacks for students.These are the most requested items: *Cheez-Its, bags of popcorn, single cereal packs, pretzels (plain or filled with cheese), GoGo Squeeze applesauce, fruit snacks, and animal crackers***Remember: no peanut or nut products!** We will collect snacks until **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**.**FALL SERMON SERIES** Inspired by *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. Each Sunday we will focus on a different chapter. This Sunday is *Deliverance Stories*, and next week will be *War Stories*.**SAVE THE DATE! A TASTE of TALENT Friday, October 16, 2026** 5:30 Spaghetti Dinner

6:30 Musical Variety Show starring out wonderful musicians at Willow Creek.

Adults \$10 | Kids ages 5-10 \$5 | Kids under 4 are free! More information will be coming regarding tickets.

Come and enjoy great food and casual, fun entertainment!

**WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR**

|                                  |           |                                                                        |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>    | 10a       | Worship, 11a Fellowship                                                |
| <b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup></b> | 5:30p     | AA Meeting                                                             |
| <b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup></b>  | 6p        | Bell Choir Rehearsal                                                   |
| <b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>2p</b> | <b>Ag Day in Argyle (2pm - 4pm)</b>                                    |
| <b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b>    | 10a       | Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E |

**"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 hours are Monday, Wednesday &amp; Friday from 8:30a - 12:30p. If you'd like to set up a time to visit Pastor Lauren, please reach out to the Office.

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