

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2026 I KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS SUNDAY I 10:00AM



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.

I IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO STAND.

PRELUDE

ALL THINGS ARE THINE
Tom Andrew, Organ

SCOTTISH TRADITIONAL MELODY,
JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER, 1872

PRESENTATION OF THE TARTANS

DAVID PEREZ-FERNANDEZ

Raise the Tartans! On behalf of all clans represented here, we raise these tartans before Almighty God in gratitude for God's blessing on God's servant people in all lands.

Eternal God, bless these symbols of our past, and grant that those who wear them, and the families they represent, may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. We proclaim that we are all united in the covenant of Jesus Christ for there is but one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all.

PROCESSIONAL

SCOTLAND THE BRAVE, WINGS, ROWAN TREE
Members of The City of Rockford Pipe Band

I CALL TO WORSHIP

MOLLY SHIPTON

Thank you, O Lord, for your Word which has ordained a rich heritage of faith and sacrifice from Adam and Eve to Abraham, Hagar and Sarah, to David and Bathsheba, so onwards to the incarnation of Jesus Christ, to the establishment of your church - the Kirk - and finally to our brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere. Never let us forget that a heritage of faith is a responsibility, not a treasure to be hoarded.

Bless us that we may be a blessing, O Lord.

Thank you, God, for the blessing of family; the warmth, comfort, and security of family love. Never let us forget that our family love is a gift to be shared, that the stranger may be warmly welcomed as kin.

Bless us that we may be a blessing, O Lord.

We praise you, O Lord, for those who have lived and died in Christ that we might have the freedom to dwell in a community of faith. Never let us forget that the days of sacrifice are not over, that we have lives to live in faith.

Bless us that we may be a blessing, O Lord.

On behalf of all families, clans, and nations, we raise these tartans before Almighty God!

In gratitude for our heritage we pray God's blessing on people in all lands. Come, let us worship God!

I HYMN

THE OLD BRICK CHURCH IN ARGYLE

WILLIAM PITTS

There's a church in the valley by the wildwood, no lovelier place in the dale;
No spot is so dear to my childhood, as the old brick church in Argyle.

*Refrain: O come, come, come, come, come to the church in the wildwood;
O come to the church in the dale;
No spot is so dear to my childhood, as the old brick church in Argyle.*

How sweet on a bright Sabbath morning, to list to the clear ringing bell;
Its tones so sweetly are calling, O come to the church in Argyle. *Refrain*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

Who are you? Why have you come here rejoicing and singing? This is a fearful place. Here you will meet your God, the God of Scotland and the God of the United States; indeed here shall you meet the Triune God of all nations.

We are children of God; forgiven by Christ, made family by God. We have come to rejoice with song, for this is a joyful place. Here we meet holy presence!

Are you worthy to come here? Have you been true followers of God?

No. Indeed, none of us are worthy on our own merit. We have sinned and fallen short of grace.

We have failed in countless ways. We acknowledge that sin is our lot, confessing our unfaithfulness, acknowledging our unworthiness, but believing in a God of Covenants. We bring our wavering commitments and our love to God and to one another.

Then let us silently talk to God, holding back nothing.

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

EXODUS 20:1 – 17

PAGES 118 – 119

DEUTERONOMY 5:6 – 21

PAGES 282 – 283

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

MEDITATION ON A SCOTTISH MELODY

ARR. KEVIN MCCHESENEY

Willow Creek Bell Choir

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

SERMON

“ORIGINALLY”

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

I HYMN #326

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW, 1864;
RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, 1906

I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – ADAPTED FROM CHAPTER 16 OF THE SCOTS CONFESSION OF 1560

As we believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, so we firmly believe that from the beginning there has been, now is, and to the end of the world shall be, one Kirk, that is to say, one company and multitude of people chosen by God, who rightly worship and embrace God by true faith in Jesus Christ, who is the only Head of the Kirk, even as it is the body and spouse of Christ Jesus. This Kirk is catholic, that is, universal, because it contains the chosen of all ages, of all realms, nations, and tongues, who have communion and society with God the Father, and with God's Son, Christ Jesus, through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PARLOR PIPES MEDLEY

Lucas Greenlee

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 - FROM THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Save us Lord, from the temptation to buy what we do not need; from confusing what we need with what we want; from wasting what we do not own, from owning what we will never use, and from idealizing the past as a golden age. Strengthen the arm and the will of all who, for the good of the world you made and love, challenge our greed and inform us about appropriate living. May their words gain a good hearing so that the world may have a good future. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER: BLESSIN' O' THE TARTANS

Almighty God, who has promised that in all places where two or more are gathered in your name, that you will meet with your servants to bless them, fulfill your sacred promise and make this church a place of Christian love and fellowship, shared Christian heritage, worship, service, and prayer.

May our worship be offered in the Holy name of Jesus and be pleasing in your sight. May you bless us with the presence of the Holy Spirit. May you sanctify this time as profitable to our hearts and souls.

We rejoice in this opportunity to dedicate these tartans to you as symbols of the unwavering loyalty and steadfast faith of our Scottish ancestors. We praise you for their ingenuity and integrity; for their respect of truth and justice; for their rejection of hypocrisy; and for their regard of liberty, life, and the equality of all people.

Grant us, O God, the ability to remain true to the faith of our ancestors, which has enlightened, encouraged, and enhanced the peoples of our beloved country and other lands. Use us to bring peace and goodwill on earth and to advance equality and justice throughout the world.

In all these prayers, remembrances, and supplications, O God, make us all, like the Scots of old, a people who strive to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Now bind us together as one family in Christ as we pray the family prayer that Jesus taught us, praying:
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. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

I HYMN #275

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

MARTIN LUTHER, 1529;
FREDERICK HENRY HEDGE, 1852

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION - A GAELIC BLESSING

*Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the gentle night to you. Moon and stars pour their healing light on
you. Deep peace of Christ, of Christ the light of the world to you. Deep peace of Christ to you.*

RECESSIONAL

GREEN HILLS OF TYROL, WHEN THE BATTLE'S OVER
Members of The City of Rockford Pipe Band

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! GREETER: MATTHEW RALSTON
LITURGIST: MOLLY SHIPTON | USHERS: RON MUZZARELLI AND JOHN REID

*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.*

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE CITY OF ROCKFORD PIPE BAND AND BEADLE GENE WHEELER



Today we gather for the Kirkin' o' the Tartans, celebrating the Scots' unwavering faith, love of scripture, persistence, strong independence and devotion to their "Kirk" (Scottish for Church).

This service originated in America but is based on Scottish history, legend and folklore.

Scottish Reformer John Knox studied under John Calvin (1509-1564) in Geneva in the 1500's, then returned to Scotland and established the first Presbyterian Churches there. The Scottish Parliament, at the conclusion of the civil war, invited John Knox and five colleagues to prepare a Confession of Faith for the church. This 1560 Confession became the Scots Confession - it was the first Reformed Confession in the English language and has been referred to as the Charter of the Church of Scotland and of the Presbyterian Church.

Presbyterianism spread to Ireland, and immigrants from Scotland and Ireland brought it to America.

Perhaps no symbol is more associated with the Scottish tradition than the colorful Highland dress.

The ancient tartan was described as "chequered" or "striped" or "sundrei coloured."

For many centuries, tartans were daily dress of the Highland people. Then and now, tartans are symbols of clan kinship. We remember our Scottish ancestors' struggle to affirm and establish that our Lord Jesus Christ alone is the Head of the Kirk. On behalf of all of Scottish descent among us, these tartans are presented before Almighty God, seeking God's blessings upon these colors and the clans they represent, as well as upon all humankind, the entire "Clan Di," (Gaelic for all the "Children of God").

AG DAY IN ARGYLE is **Saturday, September 13th 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 please help with our Mission Drive! Shopping lists available in the Fellowship Hall.

"A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the love of Christ"

