

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 18TH, 2026 | 21ST 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.

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

PRELUDE

LEAD ME ON

DAN HOLMES

Dan Holmes, Organ & Tom Andrew, Piano

WELCOME & SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

I CALL TO WORSHIP FROM MATTHEW 5

BARB GREENLEE

Jesus said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Rejoice and be glad! Come, let us worship God!

I HYMN #463

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

JOHN RIPPONS, 1787

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that sometimes your word is confusing. Sometimes, we look away if Scripture is too strange. And we struggle to believe that all of those miracles really happened. Will you help us find you on the page? Will you forgive us for being too busy to read the Bible and spend time with you in prayer? We confess that we leave these spiritual disciplines for some future day when we might have more time or energy. Will you awaken our hearts today?

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM JOHN 3

For God so loved the world that God gave the one and only Beloved Son, that whoever believes in Jesus shall not perish but have eternal life.

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Christ.

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 1:1 - 5 & 14

PAGES 1645 - 1646

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

FOLLOW THE LIGHT

DAN HOLMES

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

SERMON

"THE GOSPEL TRUTH"

The following readings will be included in the sermon: Luke 8:42b - 48, Mark 5:24 - 34 & Matthew 9:19 - 22.

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

I HYMN #459

O WORD OF GOD INCARNATE

WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW, 1867

I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - AN EXCERPT FROM THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

What is true faith?

True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

What then must a Christian believe?

All that is promised us in the gospel, a summary of which is taught us in the articles of our universal and undisputed Christian faith.

What are these articles?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

DAN HOLMES

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 HYMN #462

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

KATHERINE HANKEY, 1866;
WILLIAM G. FISCHER, 1869

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SHINE ON!

DAN HOLMES

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY!

GREETER: RON MUZZARELLI | LITURGIST: BARB GREENLEE

USHERS: DON GREENLEE, JACK GREENLEE, JAXON GREENLEE AND PHOENIX GREENLEE

SPECIAL THANKS TO TODAY'S SKIT CHARACTERS:

ELLA BERG: "JOHN" | KAILEY BERG: "LUKE" | EMMA LANDI: "MARK" | OLIVIA LANDI: "MATTHEW"

*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.*

We always welcome the sounds of children of all ages in worship. And, if a caregiver needs a break, our **nursery** is also available for the entire worship service. After the Children's Moment, children ages 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to go downstairs to **Sunday School**.

LANGUAGE IN WORSHIP 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.

CONFESSION OF FAITH Every Sunday, we join our voices together to **affirm what we believe** using our denomination's Book of Confessions or words from Scripture. Rather than figuring out our beliefs as individuals each Sunday morning, we turn to faithful followers of Christ throughout time and around the world to see how they answered the question: *What does it mean to follow Christ here and now?* Today's confession is from **The Heidelberg Catechism**, which was written in 1563 in Germany, in an attempt to unite the emerging Reformed (and always being reformed) Church.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY will be observed during worship on **Sunday, November 1st**. If there is a name you would like to have honored, let Pastor Lauren or the Church Office know by **Wednesday, October 28th**.

MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PRESBYTERY AT WILLOW CREEK Tuesday, Nov 10th 9am - 2pm
Volunteers needed to serve as Greeters, coffee makers and hosts. Sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

CORA J. POPE TRUST GRANT We're excited to award the first six Cora Pope grants!
We still have some funds available. Applications will be accepted through Sunday, November 11th.

FALL SERMON SERIES Inspired by *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. Each Sunday we will focus on a different chapter. Next Sunday will be *Gospel Stories*.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 18th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Deacon Meeting
Tuesday 20th	5:30p	Music & Worship Meeting
Wednesday 21st	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 5:30p AA Meeting
Thursday 22nd	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 25th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E, 11:30a Youth Group

"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 & 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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