

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 25TH, 2026 | REFORMATION SUNDAY | 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

BUILT ON A ROCK
Tom Andrew, Organ

NICOLAI F. S. GRUNDTVIG

WELCOME & SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

| CALL TO WORSHIP - FROM JEREMIAH 31

OLIVIA LANDI

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with my children.

It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, says the Lord.

But this is the covenant that I will make:

I will write my law on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

They shall all know me, and I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Come, let us worship God!

| HYMN #8

ETERNAL FATHER STRONG TO SAVE

WILLIAM WHITING, 1860

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION FROM THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

God of mercy and grace, you know the secrets of our hearts: how blind we are to our own faults, yet harsh in judging others; how swift we are to take for gain, yet slow to give for others; how proud we are of our successes, yet grudging in our praise of others. Remember, Lord, your tender care and love unfailing. Do not remember our sins and offenses, but remember us in your goodness, in accordance with your endless mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. And all are now justified by God's grace

as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

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

May the Peace of Christ be with you; **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

PSALM 46

PAGE 885

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

SHOUT TO THE NORTH

MARTIN SMITH

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

GOSPEL READING

MARK 4:35 - 39

PAGE 1558

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

SERMON

"HOCUS POCUS, ERASMUS, WORMS & NOSES"

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

I HYMN #821

MY LIFE FLOWS ON

ROBERT LOWRY, 1869

I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - A LITANY FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,

the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints.

This Kirk is catholic, that is, universal, because it contains the chosen of all ages, of all realms, nations, and tongues, be they of the Jews or be they of the Gentiles, who have communion and society with God the Father, and with the Son, Christ Jesus, through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that, from the beginning to the end of the world, and from among the whole human race, the Son of God, by Spirit and Word, gathers, protects, and preserves - in the unity of the true faith - a congregation chosen for eternal life.

The Church is an assembly of the faithful called or gathered out of the world; a communion of all saints, namely, of those who truly know and rightly worship and serve the true God in

NICENE CREED

APOSTLES' CREED

SCOTS CONFESSION

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

SECOND HELVETIC CONFESSION

Christ the Savior, by the Word and Holy Spirit, and who by faith are partakers in all the benefits which are freely offered through Christ.

The visible Church, which is also catholic or universal under the gospel, consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion, together with their children; and is the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ; the house and family of God.

WESTMINSTER CONFESSION

The visible church has the privilege of being under God's special care and government; of being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies; and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and offers of grace by Christ, to all members of it, in the ministry of the gospel, testifying that whosoever believes in him shall be saved, and excluding none that will come unto him.

LARGER CATECHISM

The church's commission, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ's stead, and therefore in the ministry of his own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.

BARMEN DECLARATION

The church confesses its faith when it bears a present witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ. The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

CONFESSION OF 1967

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.

BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

BE STILL, MY SOUL

JEAN SIBELUS

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 SCOTTISH REFORMER JOHN KNOX

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 #275

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

MARTIN LUTHER, 1529;
FREDERICK HENRY HEDGE, 1852

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD

MARTIN LUTHER

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! GREETER & LITURGIST: OLIVIA LANDI

USHERS: BRENDA BENNING AND MIKE 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.

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.

REFORMATION SUNDAY Presbyterians celebrate the reformed tradition that grounds our faith on the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany.

The motto of the Reformation is: *Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda* - "reformed and always being reformed", so our **paraments** are red to signify the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.

Today's **affirmation of faith** is a litany for Reformation Sunday composed of excerpts from the Creeds, Catechisms, and Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by the Office of Theology and Worship. Our Confessions always seek to answer the question: *what does it mean to follow Jesus here and now?* As we read today's litany, we hear how the Spirit of God has moved across time and place to inspire Christians to faithfully follow Jesus, and how the church is always in a state of "being reformed" as the needs of God's children are expressed in different ways in different times and places.

ALL SAINTS' DAY will be observed next Sunday November 1st. We will remember the saints who are now in God's presence and honor those whose memorial gifts have been used in the last year. If there is a name you would like the bell rung for, please let Pastor Lauren or the church office (office@WillowCreekPC.org) 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, and to help bring food.

The sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

CORA J. POPE TRUST GRANT We're excited to have awarded 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 have focused on a different chapter. Next Sunday we will end the series with *Church Stories*.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 25th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E, 11:30a Youth Group
Wednesday 28th	5:30p	AA Meeting
Thursday 29th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday 30th		 Argyle Preschool Halloween Party
Sunday 1st	10a	Worship, 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 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.

Phone: (815) 885-3455
7300 Belvidere Road
Caledonia, Illinois 61011



Email: office@willowcreekpc.org
Website: www.willowcreekpc.org
Social Media: <https://linktr.ee/wcpcargyle>