Willow Creek Presbyterian Church

November 8th, 2026 ǂ 24th Sunday after Pentecost ǂ 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.

ǂ If you are able, we invite you to stand.

Prelude

Welcome Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel

ǂ Call to Worship Maren Reid

Hoping against hope, Abraham believed
God's promise though it was unbelievable.
Abraham did not waver or weaken, but
hoped against hope, growing strong in faith
and giving glory to God;
fully convinced that God was able to fulfill
the promise. Therefore "it was reckoned to
him as righteousness." It will be reckoned to
us who believe in God who raised Jesus our
Lord from the dead, who was handed over
for our trespasses and was raised for our
justification.
We hope against hope and believe the
unbelievable because God is faithful.
Come, let us worship God!

ǂ Hymn #49 The God of Abraham Praise

Maimonides, 12th cent;
Dayan, 1404; Olivers, 1770

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we are afraid that we will run out - of time, of energy, of resources. We find ourselves wishing we were infinite. We confess we have opinions about how others should follow your call, and we do not always hear you calling us. May we hear and respond to your call, and may we trust that you will provide all that we need. We confess we have a hard time believing that we are, indeed, your beloved, and we are, indeed, called into your ministry of love and reconciliation.

A Period of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon - from Psalm 32

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.
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

Old Testament Reading — Genesis 12:1 - 7 — Page 17
Holy wisdom, **holy Word.**

Special Music — Battle Hymn of the Republic — by Ron Mallory
Willow Creek Bell Choir

Children's Moment

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

New Testament Reading — 1 Thessalonians 3:11 - 13 — Rev. Dr. William Yoo
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** — Pages 1839 - 1840

Sermon — "The God Who Calls and Inspires"

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

Moment of Silent Reflection

✝ Hymn #475 — Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing — Robert Robinson, 1758

✝ Affirmation of Faith - an excerpt from The Scots Confession

We most surely believe that God preserved, instructed, multiplied, honored, adorned, and called from death to life his Kirk in all ages since Adam until the coming of Christ Jesus in the flesh. For he called Abraham from his father's country, instructed him, and multiplied his descendants; God marvelously preserved him, and more marvelously delivered his descendants from the bondage and tyranny of Pharaoh; to them God gave laws, constitutions, and ceremonies; to them God gave the land of Canaan; after God had given them judges, and afterwards Saul, God gave David to be king, to whom God gave promise that of his descendants should one sit forever upon the royal throne.

To this same people from time to time God sent prophets, to recall them to the right way, from which sometimes they strayed by idolatry. And although, because of their stubborn contempt for righteousness God was compelled to give them into the hands of their enemies, as had previously been threatened by the mouth of Moses, so that the holy city was destroyed, the temple burned with fire, and the whole land desolate for seventy years, yet in mercy God restored them again to Jerusalem, where the city and temple were rebuilt, and they endured against all temptations and assaults of Satan till the Messiah came according to the promise.

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, God's eternal wisdom, the substance of God's own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity. And so was born the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person. That our Lord Jesus offered himself a voluntary

sacrifice unto his Father for us, that Jesus suffered contradiction of sinners, that Jesus was wounded and plagued for our transgressions.
We undoubtedly believe, since it was impossible that the sorrows of death should retain in bondage the Author of life, that our Lord Jesus crucified, dead, and buried, who descended into hell, did rise again for our justification, and the destruction of him who was the author of death, and brought life again to us who were subject to death and its bondage. We do not doubt that our Lord Jesus in our name and for our comfort has received all power in heaven and earth, where he sits at the right hand of the Father, having received his kingdom, the only advocate and mediator for us.

Call to Offering

Offertory 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman

✝ 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.

✝ 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.

✝ Hymn #69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky Daniel L. Schutte, 1981

✝ Charge and Benediction

Postlude And Can It Be, That I Should Gain? Charles Wesley

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Thank you to those who served today! Greeter: Ed Rottman
Liturgist: Maren Reid | Ushers: Lucas Greenlee 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. In our worship services, "Israel" and "Jerusalem" refer to something other than contemporary places and modern political states. As we seek to be faithful interpreters of Scripture, we pray for the day of peace and justice for all.

Prelude Tom Andrew, Organ *Lift High the Cross* G.W.Kitchin

🎄Join in the fun as we ***decorate the church for the Advent season*** after worship next **Sunday, Nov 15th** 🎄

Children's Christmas Pageant Dec. 6th during worship **Rehearsals** are during Sunday School (**10:30*am***) on ***Nov. 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th***. We will have a special visitor from the North Pole after the pageant!

Every Sunday, we join our voices together to **affirm what we believe** using words from Scripture or our denomination's *Book of Confessions*. 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 we are using an excerpt from the Scots Confession. 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 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.

Guest Preacher Today we welcome the ***Rev. Dr. William Yoo*** to our pulpit. Dr. Yoo is a friend of Pastor Lauren, and one of her seminary professors. He is Associate Professor of American Religious and Cultural History at Columbia Theological Seminary. He has published books on African American Christianity, Asian American Christianity, Presbyterian history, and the histories of Indigenous rights activism and abolitionism in the United States. His book, *What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church*, received the 2023 Award of Excellence from the Religion Communicators Council. His most recent book is *Reckoning with History: Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and the Making of American Christianity*. He is a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a member of Cherokee Presbytery. He previously served on the Board of Directors for the Presbyterian Historical Society and presently serves on the Board of Directors for the Montreat Conference Center.

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 sheets are in the Fellowship Hall.

Stewardship Sunday ***November 15th*** Join us to celebrate all that God is doing at Willow Creek, and the exciting new year of ministry God is calling us into.

Thanksgiving Turkey Meal Giveaway Our church has the amazing opportunity to give away fifty Thanksgiving meals (turkey breasts + sides) to our community. Can you help bring in: ***aluminum roasting pans, rolls of aluminum foil, rolls of paper towels and packs of Thanksgiving napkins*** by Sunday, November 22nd? If you would like to give financially, a donation of $15 covers the costs of an entire meal!
Do you know of someone in need of a Thanksgiving meal? Let Pastor Lauren or Mary Beth know.

Congregational Meeting The Session calls the Annual Congregational Meeting of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle to be held on ***Sunday, November 22nd, 2026*** following worship for the purpose of electing officers and approving Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel's contract for 2027.

The meeting will be followed by our beloved ***Hamball Potluck*** (*printed copies of the hamball recipe are available*) in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a hamball or turkey main dish, side, salad or dessert.

Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday 8th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship
Monday 9th	6:30p	Beaver Valley Clippers 4H Meeting
Tuesday 10th	9a-2p	Illinois Prairie Presbyterian Meeting
Wednesday 11th		***Veterans Day!*** 5:30p AA Meeting
Thursday 12th	1p	Grief Group, 6p Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 15th	10a	Worship - Stewardship Sunday, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship while Decorating the Church 🎄

"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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