

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church
August 30, 2026
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



WORSHIP ✦ SHARE ✦ GROW ✦ SERVE

WELCOME, Visitors and Guests!
We pray for God's blessing for us all
as we worship together today.
Please silence your cell phones
and pass the peace of Christ.

†Please rise in body or spirit.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP : *(adapted from Psalm 105)*

(Responsive)

L: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make God's deeds known among the peoples.

P: Sing to God, sing praises to God; tell of all God's wonderful works.

L: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

P: Praise the Lord!

L: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

P: We will remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

L: Welcome to this time of worship.

All: May all find rest, hope, and fulfilment as we worship Christ our Lord.

Amen

✠ OPENING SONG

#634 GTG - To God Be the Glory

Please see page 3 for words and music

WE COME BEFORE GOD TO CONFESS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

If God is in every person we meet, what does that say about the harmful words we speak, the hurt we cause to others in our lives? We are invited to bring our faults and foolishness, our brokenness and bitterness to our God, confessing such lives, so we might be made new. Join me, as we pray together saying:

ADORATION

634 To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
 2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
 but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: You know us, Watching God. You know who we are, people who find it easier to hold on to all we do that is wrong, rather than clinging to goodness. You know what we do, when we ignore the poor, or refuse to live at peace with others. You do indeed know us all too well, Steadfast Love. Yet, you continue to be patient with us and forgiving towards us. You embrace us as we turn towards you in repentance, rather than washing your hands of us. You continue to call us to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, so we might find our life with you. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: This is the good news for us, my friends. God remembers us and forgives us, so we might live as people of love and hope.

R: We will sing our praises to the One who has made us whole. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE

“Holy Spirit, breathe on me”

Holy Spirit, let me see,
all the things you are,
all the things you want me to be,
Holy Spirit breathe on me.

By Jeff Nelson and Eddie Smith.

WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD

MESSAGE FOR YOUTH Be Sincere in Your Love for Others (Romans 12:9-21)

NEWS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Lay Reader

This Week at Willow Grove

- *Join us for our weekly prayer meeting! The Zoom link is available on the church website.*

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm: Led by Judy and Paul.

Let's come together in prayer and seek the presence of God as we lift up our hearts and intercede for one another. Everyone is welcome!

What's Ahead at Willow Grove

- *If anyone has pastoral care needs during Rev. Park's August vacation, please speak with Judy Murphy, congregational life Elder.*
- *Kick-Off Sunday will be on September 13; more details to follow.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:9-21

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Overcome Evil with Good

Pastor Madelynne Lindsey

†**SONG OF RESPONSE** #829 GTG My Faith Looks Up to Thee

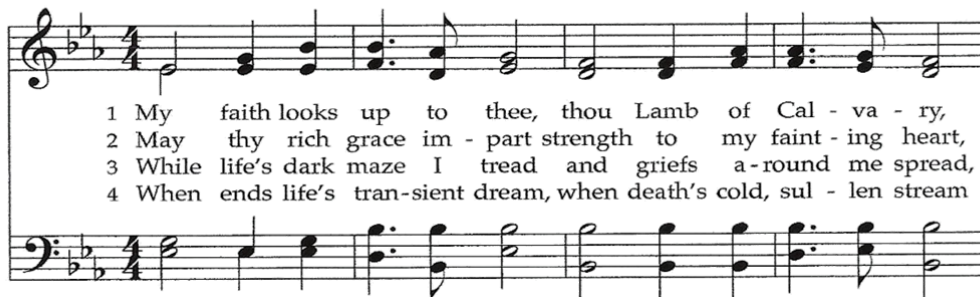
Please see page 7 for words and music

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

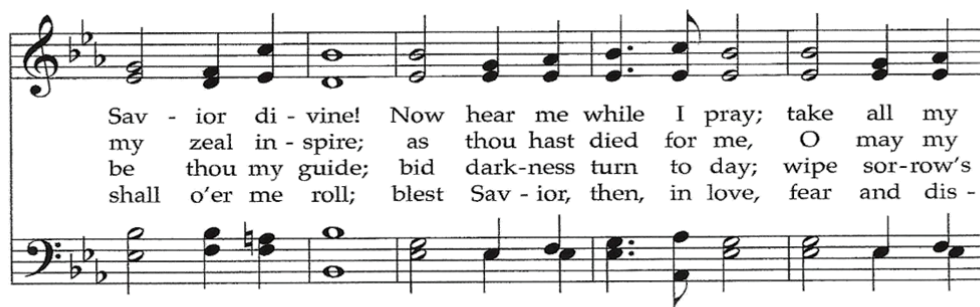
Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

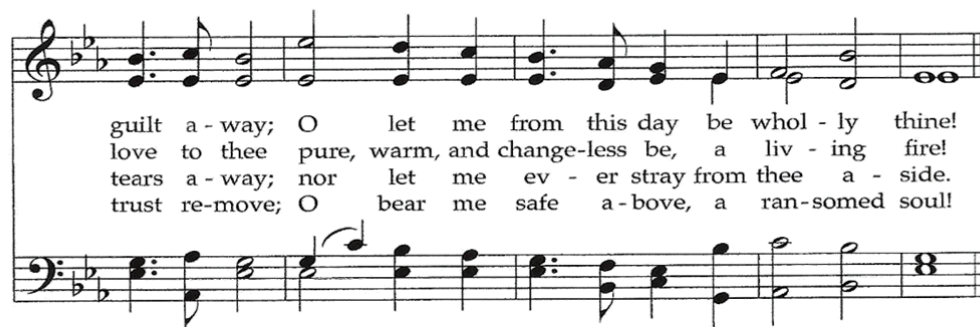
My Faith Looks Up to Thee 829



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran-sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day; wipe sor-row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way; nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran-somed soul!

Originally a poem of private reflection, this text was offered to the composer when he asked the author if he had written anything that could be set to music for a new hymn and tune collection. This was the first tune written for these words and has proved the most enduring.

**All: 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 us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

OFFERING

*[Now let us bring our gifts to God through our offering.
Please stand or sit as the Spirit leads and join us as we sing our song of thanks.]*

†RESPONSE

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks, because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son. *Repeat*

And now, let the weak say I am strong,

Let the poor say I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us. *Repeat*

Give thanks.

Words and Music: Henry Smith

†SONG OF DEPARTURE

#313 GTG - Lord, Make Us More Holy

Please see page 8 for words and music

BENEDICTION

THE DISMISSAL

L: Go now and follow Jesus in the way of the cross. Rejoice in hope, hold fast to what is good, persevere in prayer. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. As far as is possible, live peaceably with all.

R: **May the Holy Spirit be with us always nourishing us in love and hope. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, *in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

313 Lord, Make Us More Holy

1 Lord, make us more ho - ly; Lord, make us more ho - ly;
 2 Lord, make us more lov - ing; Lord, make us more lov - ing;
 3 Lord, make us more pa - tient; Lord, make us more pa - tient;
 4 Lord, make us more faith - ful; Lord, make us more faith - ful;

Lord, make us more ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain:
 Lord, make us more lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain:
 Lord, make us more pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain:
 Lord, make us more faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain:

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain.
 lov - ing, lov - ing, lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain.
 pa - tient, pa - tient, pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain.
 faith - ful, faith - ful, faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain.

Like many African American spirituals, this one creates a framework for almost endless expansion beyond the four stanzas given here. This sung prayer is notable as an affirmation of God's active care for the once-gathered community while dispersed and of hope to be reunited.

Prayers

Each week as we pray together, we pray for people whose names and stories we may not know. Yet we faithfully pray for them as we know God is aware of each and every need.

*Grateful prayers for the continued healing of
Mital, Ed, and Frank*

*Healing prayers for
Andy, August, Sandra, Irany, Olivia, Ed, Sue,
Gisela, Bonnie, and Lorraine*

Guest Preacher

Pastor Madelynne Lindsey

Guest Organist

Richard Corretore

Today's Worship Assistants

Bonnie Ruggiero – Lay Reader

Judy Murphy – Greeter

We thank all our volunteers who make our service welcoming.

Paul DiDario – Director of Music and Pianist

Rebecca Pacella – Song Leader

Doris Dias – Secretary

Office hours Mon-Thu 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Paul Whitehurst – Custodian

Rev. Se Hyuk Park – Pastor

Rev Park's regular office hours are:

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wed. and 12-3 p.m. on Thu.

Appointments during this time or at another time can be scheduled by emailing him at pastor@willowgrovechurch.org or contacting the church office



Willow Tree
CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Every Child Has a Voice Worth Sharing.

Where Young Voices Grow.

NOW ENROLLING FOR OUR INAUGURAL SEASON!



Children entering
GRADES 2-5



No audition
required



Open to all
families



Weekly rehearsals
begin **Sept. 17**



A joyful, inclusive
community

A joyful place where children **discover** their singing voice,
make new friends, **build** confidence,
and **experience** the joy of making music together!

Register Today! →
willowtreechildrenschorus.com



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offered at **low-cost**
thanks to the generous
support of
Willow Grove
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Willow Grove
Presbyterian
Church

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains, NJ,
is committed to nurturing young musicians and
creating opportunities for children to grow through
music, friendship, and community.



Willow Grove Mission Statement

Reflecting God's love, we love and serve all neighbors

We'd Love to Connect

Thanks for worshipping with us today! Scan the QR code to complete our Connection Card so we can get to know you, share what's happening at the church, and support you however we can.



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