

**Willow Grove Presbyterian Church**  
**December 14, 2025**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

*The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.  
The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!*  
*Psalm 146:7-10*



**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** —Isaiah 9:2,6; Luke 1:68

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

**All: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.**

Leader: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**All: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.**

**†OPENING SONG** #13 "Prepare the Way"

## **WE COME BEFORE GOD TO CONFESS**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION** —based on 1 John 1:8-9

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Let us make our confession to God.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.**

## **SILENT PRAYER**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

—Zephaniah 3:15, 17

Leader: The LORD has taken away the judgments against you...The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

### **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

—*Isaiah 35:1-2*

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

**All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

### **RESPONSE**

“Emmanuel”

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel.  
God in us, revealed in us,  
His name is called Emmanuel.

—*Words and Music by Bob McGee*

## **WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD**

### **MESSAGE FOR YOUTH**

“Silence! Be still!” (Mark 4)

### **NEWS FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

Lay Reader

### ***This Week at Willow Grove***

- *Please join us today after the service—for an adult forum on the History of Christmas led by Paul DiDario.*
- *Session will hold a regular meeting on Monday, December 15 at 6pm in Alexander Hall. A Zoom link will be available by request. All are welcome to attend.*
- *Join us for our weekly prayer meetings! The Zoom links are available on the church website.*  
*Mondays at 1 pm: Led by Bonnie and August.*  
*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!*
- *Our Thursday Bible Study will be taking a break for the rest of the year. We will resume in early January 2026.*

### ***What's Ahead at Willow Grove***

- *Please join us for the Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm*

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Ruth 1:11-18

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### **SERMON**

“The Mothers of Jesus: Ruth” Rev. Se Hyuk Park

#### **†SONG OF RESPONSE**

#303 “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Father Eternal, God Almighty, You have brought forth from the root of Jesse a shoot, Jesus our Savior.

**All: He is Your anointed One, the promised Messiah, in Him You are well pleased. We come to You in His service, to offer our prayers of intercession for the coming of His Kingdom.**

Leader: Father Eternal, You have anointed Jesus to be both Lord and Christ.

**All: We pray for the Church of Christ that she might be faithful to her Lord,  
bearing witness to His reign in every land among every people.**

*(Pray for the protection and expansion of the Church in the world.)*

Leader: Father Eternal, You have anointed Jesus to be our Lord and Shepherd

**All: We pray for those whom you have appointed to be ministers of your  
gospel.**

*(Pray for those who proclaim the gospel of Christ.)*

Leader: Father Eternal, You have anointed Jesus to be Lord of all the earth.

**All: We pray that you draw all people to kneel before the Prince of Peace.  
Please establish justice and peace between peoples and nations in your  
world.**

*(Pray for peace in our relationships, communities and among nations.)*

Leader: Father Eternal, You have anointed Jesus a counselor and comforter of  
Your people.

**All: We pray for those among us who suffer, for those who are lonely, for  
those without home or family, for those who are depressed and  
discouraged, for those who are seeking work, for those who are sick, for  
those who are grieving.**

*(Pray for those who suffer.)*

Leader: Praise, honor and glory belong to You, Eternal Father, and to Your Son,  
who taught us to pray saying:

**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

#49 "Once in Royal David's City"

## BENEDICTION

## THE DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## ***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*

*Healing prayers for  
Andy, August, Sandra, Lorraine, Irany, Carol, Gary, and Olivia*

## ***Today's Worship Assistants***

*Sue Palmer – Lay Reader*

*Edwin Velez – Greeter*

*Sue Palmer - Advent Reader*

*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 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](mailto:pastor@willowgrovechurch.org) or contacting the church office*

*Willow Grove Presbyterian Church holds CCLI license #3219335*

Willow Grove Mission Statement

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

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willowgrovechurch.org**

*Cover Design by Frank Thorne*