

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church
September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.
Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.
Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.*
Psalm 119:33-35



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

—from Psalm 86:11-13

Leader: Teach me your way, Lord,

All: that I may rely on your faithfulness;

Leader: give me an undivided heart,

All: that I may fear your name.

Leader: I will praise you, Lord, my God,

All: with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

Leader: For great is your love toward me;

**All: you have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead. All
to Worship here.**

†OPENING SONG “Come, Now Is The Time To Worship”

Come, now is the time to worship

Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship

Come, just as you are before your God

Come

One day every tongue will confess You are God

One day every knee will bow

Still the greatest treasure remains for those

Who gladly choose You now

By - Brian Doerksen

WE COME BEFORE GOD TO CONFESS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

—based on Hebrews 4:14, 16

Leader: We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done. Seeing that we have a great High Priest who has entered the inmost heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us therefore approach the throne of grace with fullest confidence, that we may receive mercy for our failures and grace to help in the hour of need. In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: There are many times we think we love you well, O God. But upon hearing your call to love you with all our heart, and all our mind, and all our strength, we confess that our love for you is a diluted love, made insipid and flat by lesser loyalties and a divided heart. Our love seems pure only for brief moments; soon our affections are drawn away. How easily our devotion dies. Forgive us; in deep mercy spare us, despite our lost first love for you; in grace rekindle our love for you in seeing Jesus' love for us anew. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

—from Lamentations 3:22-23

Leader: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

RESPONSE

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Lord, Listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

—Ken Meedema

WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD**NEWS FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

Lay Reader

This Week at Willow Grove

- *Join us for our weekly prayer meetings! The Zoom links are 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

- *Kick-off Sunday, September 13.*
- *Join us for Thursday Bible Study beginning September 17 as we begin a new series, “Faithful in an Unfaithful World,” studying the Book of Judges.*
- *The Session will hold a regular meeting on Sunday, September 20, in Alexander Hall. All are welcome to attend. A Zoom link is available upon request. Exact time to TBD*

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“All Is Vanity”

Rev. Se Hyuk Park

†SONG OF RESPONSE

“Christ Our Hope in Life and Death”

Please see page 8 for words and music

WE FEAST AT THE LORD’S TABLE

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 77

Minister: Where does Christ promise to nourish and refresh believers with his
body and blood as surely as they eat this broken bread and drink this cup?

All: In the institution of the Lord’s Supper:

**“The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed
took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and said,**

**‘This is my body that is broken for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.’**

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,

**‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.’**

**For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord’s death
until he comes.”**

This promise is repeated by Paul in these words:

**“The cup of blessing that we bless,
is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?**

**The bread that we break,
is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?**

**Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread.”**

SURSUM CORDA

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: ... Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven,
we glorify your name and lift our voices in joyful praise:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are
full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who
comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Minister: ... Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this
sacrament:

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Minister: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**All: God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the
living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our
earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and
thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

**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

“Keep the Feast”

Please see page 9 for words and music

BENEDICTION

THE DISMISSAL

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

All: Thanks be to God.



CHRIST OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH

Capo 3 D Dsus D Dsus D Bm7 A

1. What is our hope in life and death? Christ a-lone, Christ a-lone.
 2. *What truth can calm the trou-bled soul? God is good, God is good.*
 3. Un - to the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, he lives! Christ, he lives!"

D A/C# Bm G D/A A D

What is our on - ly con - fi - dence? That our souls to him be - long.
Where is his grace and good-ness known? In our great Re-deem-er's blood.
 And what re - ward will heav - en bring? Ev - er - last - ing life with him.

F#m Bm Em7 D/F# G

Who holds our days with - in his hand? What comes a - part from his com-mand?
Who holds our faith when fears a - rise? Who stands a - bove the storm - y trial?
 There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be de - stroyed,

D/A A Bm G D/A A D Dsus D

And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand. —
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh un - to the shore, the Rock of Christ?
 and we will feast in end - less joy when Christ is ours for - ev - er - more. —

Bm G D A/C# A Bm D/F# G

O sing hal - le - lu - jah! Our hope springs e - ter - nal; O — sing hal - le -

D/F# G D/F# A G Bm A D

lu - jah! Now and ev - er we con-fess Christ our hope in life and death.

KEEP THE FEAST

D D/F# G D/F# G A G A

1. Joy - ful - ly we join You at Your ta - ble, plead - ing not our right - eous - ness.
 2. Who is fit to feast with such a Sav - ior? Who His san - dals could un - tie?
 3. Hap - py sign of friend - ship and re - un - ion with the bles - sed Three in One.

D D/F# G D/F# G A G A^{sus} D

By Your wealth of mer - cy, we are a - ble now to feast in con - fi - dence.
 Who are we that He would show us fa - vor? Gran - ting us this gift of life.
 Fore - taste of that glo - ri - ous com - mun - ion, Vi - sion of the world to come.

Chorus

F#m Bm D/A G A^{sus} A

Take this bread and eat. Take this cup and drink. Re -

Bm D/A G G A 1. D D/F#

mem - ber how He loved us; re - joice and keep the feast.





Exploring Faith? Looking for Community? Whether you're searching for a church home or simply curious about Christianity, you are welcome here.

Come and join us for a delightful morning of fun, food, and fellowship at our annual Church kick-off .



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
STARTING AT 10:00 AM



Willow Grove Presbyterian Church
1961 Raritan Rd, Scotch Plains 07076

WHAT'S ON



**Worship
Service**



**BBQ and
refreshments**



Crafts



**Face
Painting**



**Quilt Unveiling with
Q&A with
the Quilt creator**



**Balloon
Artist**

♥ All are welcome! ♥

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.willowgrovechurch.org



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*

Today's Worship Assistants

Bonnie Ruggiero – Lay Reader

Linda DiDario – 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 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 Grove Mission Statement

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

**Willow Grove Presbyterian Church
1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains NJ 07076
908-232-5678 office@willowgrovechurch.org
willowgrovechurch.org**

We'd Love to Connect

Thanks for worshiping 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.



Cover Design by Frank Thorne