

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church
May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

*Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

1 Peter 2:9-10



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

—Psalm 96:1-3

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song;

All: sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Leader: Sing to the Lord, praise his name;

All: proclaim his salvation day after day.

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

†OPENING SONG

“God Is My Refuge”

God is my refuge and my strength,
A present help in time of need;
He is my fortress, my deliverer,
My Father, my friend in need.

Verse 1

Lord You're my shepherd, I shall not
want,
Make me to lie down in peace;
Lead me beside the still waters of life,
My soul is restored at your feet

Verse 2

Yea though I walk through the
valley of death,
I will not fear any harm;
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort
me,
You will not leave me alone.

—*Charlie LeBlanc*

WE COME BEFORE GOD TO CONFESS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION —based on Romans 8:39

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON — from Ezekiel 36:26

Leader: This is what the Lord says: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” Believe these good words and be at peace.

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

MESSAGE FOR YOUTH

“It’s Not Fair!” (Matthew 20)

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!

- *Join us for our Thursday Bible Study—The Gospel on the Move: A Journey through Acts—at 10:30 a.m., either in person or on Zoom!*
- *Please join us following the service for refreshments and fellowship in Alexander Hall.*

What’s Ahead at Willow Grove

- *We will be hosting the International Dinner on May 16th by providing foods from around the world! The free concert will begin at 4pm followed by dinner at 5:15pm. Funds raised from this dinner goes to local food banks. Let’s come together and support this wonderful event!*

SCRIPTURE READING

Jonah 3

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Relenting God, Relentless Love”

Rev. Se Hyuk Park

WE FEAST AT THE LORD'S TABLE

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: ... Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

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: Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**All: Dying, you destroyed our death;
rising, you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

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: Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord, for the mission of the church,

**All: that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth,
we pray to You, O Lord.**

(Please pray silently for the world.)

Leader: For those who do not yet believe and those struggling with their faith,

All: that they may receive the light of the gospel, we pray to You, O Lord.

(Please pray silently for those yet to believe.)

Leader: For the peace of the world,

All: that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, according to Your will, we pray to You, O Lord.

(Please pray silently for the world.)

Leader: For the poor, the persecuted, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger;

All: that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to You, O Lord.

(Please pray silently for those who suffer.)

Leader: And now hear us as we pray as our Savior taught us, 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

“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 - sèd 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.

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, Gary, Olivia, Ed, Sue, Frank, and Fred*

Today's Worship Assistants

Bill Buchanan – Lay Reader

Karen Wirth – 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 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

INTERNATIONAL CONCERT & DINNER

SATURDAY

MAY **16** 2026

4:00 P.M.

A free concert featuring
Chinese American Music Ensemble
Funds raised for local food banks

dinner tickets are: **\$14** for 13 and up
\$7 for children 6 to 12
children under 6 **free**

to purchase tickets please call August at
908 377-3469

for more details please visit
WWW.WILLOWGROVECHURCH.ORG



Willow Grove Mission Statement

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

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