

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church
September 13, 2026
Sixteenth 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 31:1-3; 21a

Leader: In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;

All: deliver me in your righteousness.

Leader: Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue;

All: be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.

Leader: Since you are my rock and my fortress,

All: for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

Leader: Praise be to the Lord,

All: for he showed me the wonders of his love

†OPENING SONG

“Let Us Rise”

Break down the walls, let love prevail.

Pour out Your truth.

Teach us Your ways, oh God.

Teach us Your ways, oh God.

All Your sons and daughters reaching out

Let us rise, Let us rise
Make us one, we cry.
Let us love like You love, let us rise.
Every tongue, every tribe
Every heart unified, let us rise.

Humbly we stand, longing for change.
Bring us to You.
Show us Your heart oh God.
Show us Your heart oh God.
All your sons and daughters reaching out

Let us rise, Let us rise
Make us one, we cry.
Let us love like You love, let us rise.
Every tongue, every tribe
Every heart unified, let us rise.

Let us rise unto the nations
With the story of a Savior
Who has come to bring His children home.
Let us sing across the waters
With a voice in one accord
We are Yours, we are Yours, we are Yours.

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: Gracious God, our success and affluence have tricked us into thinking we don't need you. Our failures and hardships have made us doubt your patience and love. Like lost sheep, we have gone our own way, and in straying from you, we have sinned against you and our neighbor in thought, word, and deed. We have sinned in ways we recognize; we have sinned in ways we are blind to, often claiming we are innocent. So search us, God, and know our hearts; test us and know our anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Search us and set us free. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

—Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7

Leader: Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

RESPONSE

“Holy Spirit, Breathe on Me”

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

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

- *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 its regular meeting on Sunday, September 20, at 6:30 p.m. in Alexander Hall. All are welcome to attend. A Zoom link is available upon request.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Eternity in Our Hearts"

Rev. Se Hyuk Park

†SONG OF RESPONSE

"In Christ Alone"

Please see page 8 for words and music

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

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

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.



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

Edwin Velez – 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

IN CHRIST ALONE

G D G A D/F# G Em A

In Christ a - lone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my
 In Christ a - lone! Who took on flesh; Full - ness of God in help - less
 There in the ground his bod - y lay, Light of the world by dark - ness
 No guilt in life, no fear in death; this is the pow'r of Christ in

5 D G D G A D/F#

song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground, firm through the
 babe! This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the
 slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious Day, up from the
 me; from life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com -

8 G Em A D G D

fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of
 ones he came to save: 'til on the cross as Je - sus
 grave he rose a - gain! And as he stands in vic - to -
 mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of

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

peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
 died, the wrath of God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was
 ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
 man, can ev - er pluck me from his hand; 'til he re - turns or calls me

15 A D/F# G Em A D

all, here in the love of Christ I stand.
 laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
 mine; bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

COME, BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

E A E B

1. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry in the dawn - ing of the King: He the
 2. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry: He the per - fect Son of Man in His
 3. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry: Christ the Lord up - on the tree. In the
 4. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry: slain by death, the God of life. But no

6 C#m7 A B E G#

theme of hea - ven's prais - es, robed in frail hu - man - i - ty. In our
 liv - ing, in His suff - 'ring, nev - er trace nor stain of sin. See the
 stead of ru - ined sin - ners, hangs the Lamb in vic - to - ry. See the
 grave could e'er re - strain Him; Praise the Lord, He is a - live! What a

10 A E/
G# E /D# C#m7 E/
B A

long - ing, in our dark - ness, now the light of life has come. Look to
 true and bet - ter A - dam, come to save the hell-bound man. Christ the
 price of our re - demp - tion; see the Fa - ther's plan un - fold, bring - ing
 fore - taste of de - liv - 'rance; how un - wa - ver - ing our hope! Christ in

14 E/
B C#m7 /B A Bsus E

Christ Who con - de - scend - ed, took on flesh to ran - som us.
 great and sure ful - fill - ment of the law in Him we stand.
 man - y sons to glo - ry, grace un - means - ured, love un - told.
 pow - er res - ur - rect - ed, as we will be when He comes.



Willow Tree
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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

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