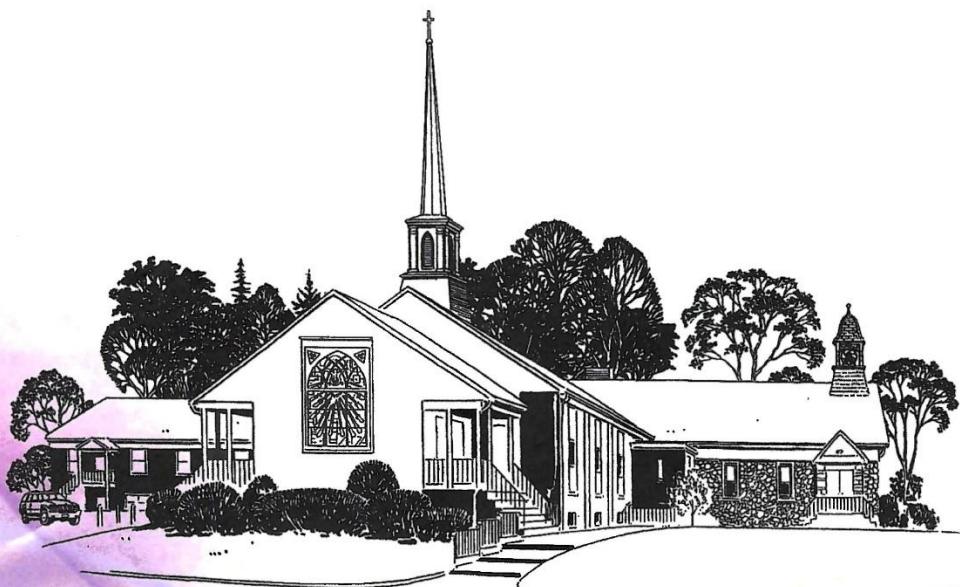


Willow Grove Presbyterian Church  
February 8, 2026  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

*You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?  
It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.  
You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.*  
Matthew 5:13-14



WillowGrove  
Church

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 33

Leader: Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to  
praise him. Sing to him a new song, and shout for joy.

**All: For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.**

Leader: By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the  
breath of his mouth. Let all the people of the world revere him.

**All: For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.**

Leader: We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

**All: In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.**

#### **†OPENING SONG**

“He Reigns on High”

Praise the Lord, worship His majesty. He reigns on high.

Praise the Lord, worship His majesty. He reigns on high.

One thing have I desired O Lord.

That I may dwell in Your house forever,

that I may always see Your beauty,

and know the Fullness of Your power.

Praise the Lord, worship His majesty He reigns on high.

Praise the Lord, worship His majesty He reigns on high.

Praise the Lord!

—Steve Young

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law. Together let us confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Lord, you speak your life-giving words to us so generously, but our ears have been hardened. You said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." Forgive us our lukewarm love and going our own way. Lord, you said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." We confess that our lives are often consumed by worry and anxiety. Lord, you said, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." Forgive us for finding our worth outside of your truth. Lord, you said, "You must testify, for you have been with me." We confess, Lord, that we have been too often silent. Lord, you said, "Love each other as I have loved you." Forgive us for using our neighbors for our benefit instead of recognizing your image in them and serving them. Give us ears to hear your word of forgiveness and change us by your generous love. Amen.

## SILENT PRAYER

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

—1 Peter 1:18-19

Leader: You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

### 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**

“The King Who Feeds His People” (Mark 6)

### **NEWS FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

Lay Reader

#### *This Week at Willow Grove*

- *Immediately following worship, we will hold a Congregational Meeting. The agenda will include electing new Session members and trustees, approving the Pastor's Terms of Call, and receiving the 2026 budget.*
- *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!*

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

- *February 18<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 pm*
- *Adult Forum – February 22  
Join us in the lounge as Fiorella Menjivar presents their church, who worship at Willow Grove—Enciende Una Luz. She will be sharing about their denomination, ministry, and congregation.*

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 15:11-24

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON**

“The Lost Son”

Rev. Se Hyuk Park

### **†SONG OF RESPONSE**

“His Mercy Is More”

## HIS MERCY IS MORE

N.C. E A sus2 E Bsus C<sup>#</sup>m  
 1. What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done; Om - ni - scient, all kno - wing, He  
 2. What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam; What Fa - ther, so ten - der, is  
 3. What rich - es of kind - ness He la - vished on us; His blood was the pay - ment, His

A add9 Bsus E add9 F<sup>#</sup>m<sup>7</sup> E/G<sup>#</sup> A  
 counts not their sum. Thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore; \_\_\_\_\_  
 call - ing us home. He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor; \_\_\_\_\_ } Our  
 life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could ne - ver af - ford; \_\_\_\_\_

A E E E/G<sup>#</sup> A E  
 sins they are ma - ny, His mer - cy is more. Praise the Lord! \_\_\_\_\_

Bsus E/G<sup>#</sup> A E B A E Bsus B C<sup>#</sup>m  
 His mer - cy is more. \_\_\_\_\_ Stron - ger than dark - ness, new ev' - ry morn; Our

A E B E A/E  
 sins they are ma - ny, His mer - cy is more. \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

## BENEDICTION

## THE DISMISSAL

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

B F# E B B/A# G#m F#/A# B

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary;  
O Light that fol-low'st all my way, I yield my flick- ring;  
O Joy that seek-est me through pain, I can-not close my;  
O Cross that lift-est up my head, I dare not ask to.

5 E F# B F# E B B/A#

soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that  
torch to thee; my heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, that  
heart to thee; I trace the rain-bow through the rain, and  
fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo-ry dead, and

8 G#m F#/A# B E F# C#m G#m F# F#/E F#/D# F#

in thine o-cean depths its flow may rich-er full-er be.  
in thy sun-shine's blaze its day may bright-er fair-er be.  
feel the prom-ise is not vain, that morn shall tear-less be.  
from the ground there blos-soms red life that shall end-less be.

—Words: George Matheson; Music: Christopher Miner

## *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, Olivia, Ed, and Sue*

## *Today's Worship Assistants*

*Edwin Velez – Lay Reader*

*Edith Konopka – 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@willongrovechurch.org](mailto:pastor@willongrovechurch.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](mailto:office@willowgrovechurch.org)  
[willowgrovechurch.org](http://willowgrovechurch.org)

*Cover Design by Frank Thorne*