

**Willow Grove Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, August 24, 2025**  
**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY**

*"She extends her hands to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy."*  
*Proverbs 31:20*



**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,  
wear your masks if you wish,  
and pass the peace of Christ safely.

*†Please rise in body or spirit.*

## **WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

### **WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: In the morning of creation, when chaos reigned and the earth was formless and void, the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters and whispered,

**People: "Come, you are welcomed in this place."**

Leader: In the dry and desperate desert where the people fled, seeking freedom, the daughters of Miriam danced, water burst forth out of the rock of Horeb and Holy Wisdom beckoned:

**People: "Come, you are welcome in this place."**

Leader: By the waters of Babylon, where exiles wept bitter tears and could not find their voices, the Spirit of Justice spoke:

**People: "Come, you who long for home, you are welcome in this place."**

Leader: Out of the River Jordan, where the prophet called, brother Jesus arose, dripping from the waters of baptism, calling:

**People: "Come and follow me – you are welcome in this place."**

Leader: Near the crystal river that flows through the new Jerusalem, by the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations, the Spirit and the bride say,

**People: "Come, all you who are thirsty, drink from the spring of the water of life and know you are welcome in this place."**

Leader: Let us worship God!

## †OPENING SONG: “Step by Step”

O God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
O God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
And I will seek You in the morning  
And I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days.

### WE COME BEFORE GOD TO CONFESS

**Invitation to Confession** — from Hebrews 10:21-22a

Leader: Since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach our  
Creator with a true heart in full assurance of faith.  
In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All:** Weaver God, we come to you, or —more the truth—you find us  
disconnected and out of sorts. We are disheartened by our failures,  
discouraged by our weakness, and little that we do seems worthy of your grace.

Restore our fortunes. Restore our future. Weave for us the tapestry on  
which our lives are stretched. Give us patience with the endless back and forth  
of shuttle, hand and effort. We look too closely, seeing only strands and knots  
and snarled threads of too-much-trying or none-at-all.

Grant us eyes to see the whole of which we are a part. In the end, we ask  
for gentleness with ourselves, acceptance of our less than perfect way.

We pray that what we do and what you weave form patterns clear to all, of  
mercy in the warp of it and love throughout.

### SILENT PRAYER

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Good people, most royal greening verdancy.  
Rooted in the sun you shine with radiant light  
In this circle of earthly existence, you shine so finely. It surpasses understanding.

God hugs you. You are encircled by the arms of the mystery of God.  
Siblings in Christ, children of creation, believe the good news:

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Praise be for forgiveness in Christ's love!**

**RESPONSE**

“Come Holy Spirit”

Come Holy Spirit	Only You can make me whole
Fall afresh on me	Give me strength to make me grow
Fill me with Your power	Come Holy Spirit
Satisfy my needs	Fall afresh on me

**WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD**

**MESSAGE FOR YOUTH**

**NEWS FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

***This Week at Willow Grove***

- *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!*

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

- *Kick off Sunday will be September 7 at 10 am, followed by a barbecue and lots of fun activities/games. Food on the First will also be collected.*

**SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 131**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**MEDITATION: “Saints and Widows”**

Bonnie J Ruggiero

Including a reading of Acts 9:36-43

## †SONG OF RESPONSE: “Here In This Place”

Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away.  
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in - the blind and the lame.  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you.  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

*Words and Music by Marty Haugen*

## LITANY OF RESPONSE (based on “Wise Women Also Came” by Jan Richardson)

Leader: Wise Women also came – the fire burned in their wombs long before they  
saw the flaming star in the sky. They walked in shadow, trusting the path  
would open under the light of the moon.

**All: We give thanks for their faithfulness.**

Leader: Wise women also came, seeking no directions, no permission from any king.  
They came by their own authority, their own desire, their own longing.  
They came in quiet, spreading no rumors, sparking no fears to lead to  
innocent’s  
slaughter, to their sisters Rachel’s inconsolable lamentations.

**All: We are grateful for their willingness to comfort.**

Leader: Wise women also came, and they brought useful gifts: water for labor’s  
washing, fire for warm illumination, a blanket for swaddling.

**All: We appreciate their practicality.**

Leader: Wise women also came, at least three of them, holding Mary in the labor,  
crying out with her in the birth pangs, breathing ancient blessing into her ear.

**All: We appreciate their willingness to comfort.**

Leader: Wise women also came, and they went, as wise women always do, home a different way.

We hopefully have known wise women. May we take a few minutes to either remember such a person or persons either silently in our thoughts or share name aloud with a short reason (please raise your hand and wait for the microphone.)

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

Please share your prayer concerns at this time by either raising your hand or standing and waiting for the microphone.

Leader: Let us join together in prayer:

**All: Holy God, There is so much to pray for.**

**In this beautiful, messy, sublime world that You created, so much weighs on our hearts. There are many things we wish we had the power to fix.**

**Often unexpected times of grace restore our hope, and miracles large and small make us want to sing with joy.**

**We offer prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude:**

**For family and friends that bring joy and renewal.**

**For the awesome beauty of creation, and the gift of time spent in it.**

**We pray for those who are weary, for those who feel forgotten, for those who face injustice and for those who walk and work beside them in courage and faith.**

**We pray for peace: in times of uncertainty, when headlines proclaim crime, starvation, political division, and environmental crisis. Quiet our hearts when the world is loud. Guide us when ways aren't clear.**

**We pray for healing and provision: for those weighed down by sickness and sorrow, loss and longing, hunger and harm, for those facing impossible decisions. We ask that Your hand be upon what is broken in our bodies, in our systems, and in our souls, and bring about healing.**

**We pray for wisdom and transformation: that we and leaders of our cities, states, and nations might see with clearer eyes, and act with humble hearts.**

**Make us all instruments of Your peace and agents of Your grace.**

**O God, You know our hearts and what we can and do pray for.**

**And yet You love us enough to listen again and again, when we come to You in prayer.**

Assured of that love, and holding all of the prayers spoken and the ones we carry in our hearts, we join together now using the words Jesus taught us saying

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 GOD 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

“For All the Faithful Women”

(Please see page 8 for words and music)

#### Charge and Blessing

Leader: Life is a precious thing to me, and a little thing...  
And the world is a little thing...  
But it is God's ever keeping,  
it is in God's ever loving  
it is in God's ever making  
How should anything be amiss?  
Yes, all shall be well  
And thou shall see thyself

that all manner of thing shall be well.

(Julian of Norwich, “Showings”)

**All: Amen.**

## THE CHURCH

## 324 For All the Faithful Women

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C)  
 Eb Cm7 Ab Bb Eb

1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in  
 2 We praise your name for Mir - iam, who sang tri -  
 3 We sing of bus - y Mar - tha, who toiled with  
 4 Lord, hear our praise of Dor - cas, who served the

(G) (C) (Am7) (Dm) (G)  
 Bb Eb Cm7 Fm Bb

days of old, to you shall thanks be giv - en; to  
 um - phant - ly while Pha - raoh's vaunt - ed ar - my lay  
 pot and pan while Mar - y sat in si - lence to  
 sick and poor. Her hands were cups of kind - ness, her

(C) (G7) (C) (Am)  
 Eb Bb7 Eb Cm

all, their sto - ry told. They served with strength and  
 drowned be - neath the sea; for Ruth, who left her  
 hear the word a - gain. We praise the oth - er  
 heart an o - pen door. O God, for saints and

(D) (G) (F) (G) (C)  
 F Bb Ab Bb Eb

glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave. To you their  
 home - land and ven - tured forth in faith, who pledged to  
 Mar - y, who has - tened to the tomb and found her  
 ser - vants, our fer - vent prayer we raise, that, faith - ful

(Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)  
 Cm7 Ab Bb Eb Fm Bb Eb

lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your power to save.  
 serve and wor - ship Na - o - mi's God till death.  
 Lord a - ris - en, dis - pel - ling doubt and gloom.  
 in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.



## ***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  
Mavis, Sandra, Lorraine, Irany, and Carol*

## ***Today's Worship Participants***

### ***Guest Musician***

*Robert Corretore*

### ***Worship Participants***

*Edith Konopka*

*Sue Palmer*

*Judy Murphy*

*Bonnie Ruggiero*

*Stepanie Velez*

*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*

Gifts of Women resources used were produced by Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, director of Humanitarian and Global Ecumenical Engagement for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The prayer of the people was adapted from Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, NYC.

*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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