

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church  
December 7, 2025  
Second Sunday of Advent

*In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,  
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”*

*This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,  
“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”  
Matthew 3:1-3*



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 4

Leader: Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

**People: But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; he hears when I call to him.**

Leader: Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD. There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!"

**People: You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

#### **†OPENING SONG** #41 "O Come All Ye Faithful."

## **WE COME BEFORE GOD TO CONFESS**

#### **INVITATION TO CONFESSION** —based on 1 John 1:8-9

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Let us make our confession to God.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Almighty and most merciful father, we are thankful your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our frivolous attitude toward life, our callousness toward suffering, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life so we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **SILENT PRAYER**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** —Job 19:25, 27

Leader: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth ... I myself will see him with my own eyes.

### **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom:

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

—*Isaiah 11:6*

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

**All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**RESPONSE** "Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel.  
God in us, revealed in us,  
His name is called Emmanuel.

—*Words and Music by Bob McGee*

## WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD

### MESSAGE FOR YOUTH

“Seeds and Soils” (Mark 4)

### NEWS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Lay Reader

#### ***This Week at Willow Grove***

- *Don’t forget our Holiday Concert for the community will be on Friday, December 12th in the sanctuary with the Florian Schantz Jazz Combo. They will delight us with Christmas carols and holiday songs. Come and enjoy.*
- *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!*
- *Join us for our Thursday Bible Study at 10:30 a.m.—either in person or on Zoom!*

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

- *Please join us—today and next week (December 14th) after the service—for an adult forum on the History of Christmas led by Paul DiDario.*
- *Session will hold a regular meeting on Monday, December 15 at 6pm in Alexander Hall. A Zoom link will be available by request. All are welcome to attend.*

### SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 2:8-13

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

“The Mothers of Jesus: Rahab” Rev. Se Hyuk Park

### †SONG OF RESPONSE

“Christ Is Mine Forevermore”

*Please see page 9 for words and music*

## WE FEAST AT THE LORD’S TABLE

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

An Excerpt from The Nicene Creed

Leader: Christian, what do you believe about the Incarnation?

**All: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven; and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, he was made man**

## **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 Almighty!**

**All the earth shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!**

**God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

## **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: The gifts of God for the people of God.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**All: Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

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

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Father in heaven, you sent your son, the true Light, into our dark world. We ask you to continue your work, bringing reconciliation, gospel light, and healing. For this congregation and others in our area: Bless our labors and spread the gospel through us.**  
*(Pray for our congregation and others in our area.)*

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer. For those in positions of public trust: Guide them and lead them to make wise and just decisions.**  
*(Pray for all those who hold power.)*

Leader: Let us join the church throughout the ages in praying as Jesus taught us:

**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**

#9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

## **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, Carol, Gary, and Olivia*

***Today's Worship Assistants***

*Edith Konopka – 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](mailto:pastor@willowgrovechurch.org) or contacting the church office*

*Willow Grove Presbyterian Church holds CCLI license #3219335*



# CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE



1. Mine are days that God has num bered; I was made to walk with Him.
2. Mine are tears in times of sor - row, dark-ness not yet un - der - stood.
3. Mine are days here as a stran - ger, pil - grim on a nar - row way.



Yet, I look for world-ly treas - ure and for - sake the King of kings.  
Through the val - ley I must trav - el where I see no earth-ly good.  
One with Christ I will en - coun - ter harm and ha - tred for His name.



But mine is hope in my Re - deem - er; though I fall, His love is sure.  
But mine is peace that flows from heav - en, and the strength in times of need.  
But mine is ar - mour for this bat - tle, strong e - nough to last the war.



For Christ has paid for ev - ry fail - ing; I am His for - ev - er more.  
I know my pain will not be wast - ed; Christ com pletes His work in me.  
And He has said He will de - liv - er safe - ly to the gold - en shore.

## CHORUS



And mine are keys to Zi - on ci - ty where be - side the King I walk.



For there my heart has found its treas - ure; Christ is mine for - ev - er more.

## BRIDGE



Come re - joice now, O my soul, for His love is my re - ward. Fear is



gone and hope is sure; Christ is mine for - ev - er more.



**Willow Grove Church  
Presents**



# Holiday Jazz Concert



**The Florian Shantz Jazz Combo**  
**Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**



[www.willowgrovechurch.org](http://www.willowgrovechurch.org)



Willow Grove Mission Statement

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

**Willow Grove Presbyterian Church  
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willowgrovechurch.org**

*Cover Design by Frank Thorne*