

Willowdale

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Welcome to Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

January 21, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

*In worship, God speaks to us through his Word,
and we respond with praise and prayer.*

About the service:

Worship spaces: In the church Sanctuary and on ZOOM

Worship minister and preacher: Pastor Greg Sinclair

Elder of service: Kamran M.

Song Leader: Matthijs Kronemeijer

Readers: Matthijs Kronemeijer, Ingrid Roeleveld

Worship musicians: Nelly Sinclair (violin), Behnoosh B (violin),
Hye-jin Im (piano)

Simultaneous Translation: Sylvie Charliekaram

Sound/Zoom/Slides operators: Nancy Fernhout, Elisa P.

Zoom hosts: Asal P., Alana Yoneyama

Slides prepared by: Mary Martens

Greeters: Gerard Duiker

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

After the service:

Please join us for coffee and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to meet with Pastor Greg, please send an email to pastorgreg@willowdalecrc.com or call: 289-925-4390.

Reflection

The world is a dance in which good, descending from God, is disturbed by evil arising from the creatures, and the resulting conflict is resolved by God's own assumption of the suffering nature which evil produces.

— C.S. Lewis

Prelude

Welcome and introduction — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Call to worship** — Luke 3:21-22 — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Leader: Friends, according to Gospel writer Luke,
“When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was
baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was
opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily
form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are
my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’”
This Jesus, God’s own beloved Son, loves us, and wants to
bring us to his Father.
Come, friends, let us follow Jesus. Let us worship God.

***Prayer of adoration** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***God’s greeting** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Song of praise** — LUYH 351 — *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee with thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747, P.D.

Reading from the Gospel — Luke 4:1-15 — Matthijs Kronemeijer

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully;

¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

¹² Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

Children’s story — Nicholas Chuba, Sunday School children

Children ages 4-12 are invited to gather in the front before continuing their worship in Sunday school. Visitor’s children are welcome!

Prayer for the children (Concluded by the Lord’s Prayer)

Lord’s prayer (in English and Farsi)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

ای پدر ما که در آسمانی، نام تو مقدس باد، ملکوت تو بیاید، اراده تو چنانکه در آسمان است بر زمین نیز کرده شود. نان کفاف ما را امروز به ما بده و قرضهای ما را ببخش چنانکه ما نیز قرضداران خود را میبخشیم و ما را در آزمایش میاور بلکه از شریر ما را رهایی ده زیرا ملکوت و قوت و جلال تا ابدالابد از آن توست. آمین

***Song of Dedication** — LUYH 709 — *Jesus Loves Me*

1. Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

2. Jesus loves me—he who died
heaven’s gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.

Refrain

3. Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, “Let them come to me.”

Refrain

Words: st. 1-2 Anna B. Warner, 1859, st. 3 David R. McGuire, 1971, P.D

Sunday School Dismissal

All children ages 4-12 are invited to join us for Bible stories, crafts and games.

Call to confession — Psalm 85 (NIV) — Ingrid Roeleveld

For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.

- ¹You, LORD, showed favour to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- ²You forgave the iniquity of your people
and covered all their sins.
- ³You set aside all your wrath
and turned from your fierce anger.

- ⁴ Restore us again, God our Saviour,
and put away your displeasure toward us.
- ⁵ Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
- ⁶ Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?
- ⁷ Show us your unfailing love, LORD,
and grant us your salvation.
- ⁸ I will listen to what God the LORD says;
he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—
but let them not turn to folly.
- ⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ Love and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- ¹¹ Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.
- ¹² The LORD will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.
- ¹³ Righteousness goes before him
and prepares the way for his steps.

Prayer of confession and thanksgiving — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Assurance of forgiveness — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Song of assurance** — *The Astounding Love of Jesus Christ*

1. That God's own Son should come to earth
and undergo a human birth
shows such astounding love and care
it's more than selfish thought can bear.
2. No angels could for sin atone
salvation comes from God alone
God let divine and human mesh
Christ Jesus took on mortal flesh

3. Our Lord was baptized, needed bread,
The Satan tempted him instead
with lies that promised glory, power
but Jesus waited for God's hour.
4. He prayed and preached and healed the sick
Christ's miracles made mercy stick.
Poor people, strangers, even us
Received God's grace – incredulous!
5. Life-long he bore our cursed sin
till evil men arrested him.
On Golgotha's cruel cross Christ died:
the crowd just mocked, disciples cried.
6. But Jesus Christ rose from the grave!
provides for all he came to save.
Ascending to God's throne, he sent
the Holy Ghost—so we repent.
7. May God the Father be adored,
with Jesus Christ, our coming Lord,
with Holy Spirit—Trinity—
both now and through eternity.

Text: Anonymous 1400s AD Latin hymn of 23 stanzas, *Apparuit benignitas* Tr. Vers.
Stanzas 2,4,8,9,10,11,23 Calvin Seerveld © 2023
Tune: Anonymous Agincourt Hymn, 1400s AD

Prayer of illumination — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Scripture reading — Romans 4:23-5:11 (NIV) — Pastor Greg Sinclair

4 ²³The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, ²⁴but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon — *Death as Love* — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Song of response** — LUYH 796 — *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*

1. Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus,
vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of thy love—
leading onward, leading homeward,
to thy glorious rest above!

2. Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus—
spread his praise from shore to shore!
How he loves us, ever loves us,
changes never, nevermore!
How he watches o'er his loved ones,
died to call them all his own;
how for them he's interceding,
watching o'er them from the throne!
3. Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus,
love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'tis a haven sweet of rest!
Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus—
'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
and it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to thee!

Words: Samuel Trevor Francis, ca. 1890, alt., P.D.

Prayers of God's People — Kamran M.

Offering Plate

You may drop your offering on the plate as you exit the Sanctuary after the service.

1st Offering, Church Ministries, by cheque to the church or by online banking at any one of the 5 big banks, DUCA and Tangerine.

2nd Offering, Resonate Global Mission (Gen. Fund), by cheque to the church. Please see The Weekly for information about this ministry.

***Celebration of Lord's supper — Pastor Greg Sinclair**

Apostles' Creed — in English and Farsi

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

اعتقادنامه مسیحی

من ایمان دارم به خدای پدر قادر مطلق، خالق آسمان و زمین، و به پسر یگانه او خداوند ما عیسی مسیح که به واسطه روح القدس در رحم قرار گرفت و از مریم باکره متولد شد و در حکومت پنطیوس پیلاطس الم کشید و مصلوب شده بمرد و مدفون گردید، و به عالم ارواح نزول کرد و در روز سوم از مردگان برخاست، به آسمان صعود نموده و به دست راست خدای پدر قادر مطلق نشسته است و از آنجا خواهد آمد و زندگان و مردگان را داوری نماید و من ایمان دارم به روح القدس و به کلیسای مقدس جامع و به شرکت مقدسین و به آمرزش گناهان و به قیامت ابدان و به حیات جاودان.

You are invited to come forward to receive the elements.

Song during the communion — LUYH 96 — *What Feast of Love*

1. What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the King,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!
2. What light of truth is offered here,
what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the King,
the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!
3. What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the King,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

Words: Delores Dufner, OSB (b. 1939) © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications

***Benediction** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Doxology** — LUYH 584 — *Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord*

1. Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways
and glorify your name.
Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy.
Alleluia!

2. Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways
and glorify your name.
Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy.
Alleluia!
3. Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways
and glorify your name.
Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy.
Alleluia!

Words: based on Psalm 9:1-2, Claude Frayssé © 1976 Claude Frayssé; tr. Kenneth Morse © 1989 The Hymnal Project, used by permission of Brethren Press

Postlude

The Giving Tree:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Sunday School Giving Tree. Wanted to let you know that the hats, scarves, mitts and socks will be given to the Yonge Street Mission and they will be sharing them with those in need for some extra warmth this winter.

Thanks again!

Discipleship Opportunity – Letter to the Romans:

Thursday evenings running now through Lent we will be studying the Letter to the Romans (**we will take a break from January 24 to February 4 while Pastor Greg is on vacation**). This will add to the sermons on Sunday. In Romans, Paul writes about the human predicament and the solution that God provides for us – one of the clearest explanations of the Gospel. This is Paul's longest letter at 7,114 words, so we will take time to go through it carefully. Come out and learn more.

We will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays (at the church - 70 Hilda Ave) with worship and then a time of teaching followed by questions and some social time. We plan to be finished by 9:00 p.m. We will meet in the sanctuary and there will be simultaneous translation. All are invited.

Birthdays:

January 21 — Danelle I.

January 22 — Suzanne C.

January 22 — Ellie M.

January 25 — Dan C.

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for our **1st offering** for our **church ministries and expenses**, faithful giving is a blessing to our whole church family.

Please pray for our **2nd offering**. Formed by the joining of Christian Reformed Home Missions and World Missions, Resonate Global Mission trains missional leaders, guides new churches and forges partnerships to proclaim and live out the good news of Jesus Christ worldwide. This offering supports the General Fund of the Mission. Website: [Resonate Global Mission](#)

Guest Preaching Schedule:

January 28 — Pastor Tom van Milligen

February 4 — Pablo Kim Sun

March 3 — Beth Fellingner

ZOOM Host Schedule:

January 28 — Peter G.

February 4 — John

February 11 — Peter

February 18 — Asal P.

February 25 — Alana

March 3 — John

March 10 — Peter

March 17 — Alana

March 24 — Peter

March 31 — Asal P.

Greeters Schedule:

January 28 — Ardi

February 4 — Rob

February 11 — Asal

February 18 — Kate & Joseph

February 25 — Suzanne

March 3 — Cici & Lyn

March 10 — Gerard

March 17 — Ardi

March 24 — Rob

March 29 — Asal (Good Friday)

March 31 — Kate & Joseph (Easter)

Coffee & Tea Serving Schedule:

January 21 — Lydia, Hye-jin, Suzanne

January 28 — Kate & Joseph, Sylvie

February 4 — Toktam, Lydia, Mahboubeh

February 11 — Hye-jin, Cici Luy, Lin Lyu, Maral

February 18 — Weria, Maryam, Lydia

February 25 — Kate & Joseph, Nelly

Basement apartment available immediately:

The apartment is in a quiet neighbourhood right near Christie subway station (downtown) and has a separate kitchen, bathroom, and entrance. There's parking for bike(s) and a small car. Cost is \$1250 a month for rent, internet, utilities (slightly more, if it's a couple, as we split utilities per person). Please note that there is a pet cat who lives upstairs and will not enter the apartment. Reach out to Brenda or Matthijs for more info: mkronemeijer@gmail.com

Sermon notes

Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

We are on The Bridge App! Visit the **Apple Store** or **Google Play** on your mobile device and search for THE BRIDGE APP to download it. Please note that information shared on the app for Willowdale CRC are visible only to verified Willowdale CRC users only. **Enjoy the App!**

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Website: www.willowdalecrc.com

Bulletin announcements: office@willowdalecrc.com

Items for the Willowdale Weekly are due on Thursdays at noon.

Pastor Greg Sinclair: pastorgreg@willowdalecrc.com

Elders: consistory@willowdalecrc.com

Deacons: deacons@willowdalecrc.com

Song and service credits

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LUYH (*Lift Up Your Hearts*) is a new volume of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs produced by the Christian Reformed Church in North America and the Reformed Church in America

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