

Willowdale

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Welcome to Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

November 17, 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 leader and preacher: Pastor Greg Sinclair

Elder of service: Beatrice Vandervelde

Reader: Peter Grauds

Simultaneous Translation: Sylvie Charliekaram

Worship musician: Hye-jin Im (piano)

Sound/Slides operators: Elisa, Nancy Fernhout, Kuroosh

Zoom host: Alana Yoneyama

Slides prepared by: Mary Martens

Greeters: Ferdinand Cruz, Nathan Cruz

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

After the service:

We invite you to 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

Why punish humility, or persecute gentleness, or pursue the merciful? But this theme fits in with the repeated emphasis on the Beatitudes as counter cultural – indeed, as so counter to the culture that they arouse hostility and hatred. In this sense, the eighth beatitude is simply the result of the first seven. This theme can be seen in scattered writings throughout history.

- Rebecca Eklund

Prelude

***Welcome and introduction** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Call to worship** — from Luke 1:46-55

Leader: Let us magnify the Lord. And rejoice in God in our Saviour.

People: For He who is mighty has done great things for us. And holy is His name.

Leader: And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

People: He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

Leader: He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly.

People: He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

Leader: He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy,

People: As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

Leader: Let us rejoice in God in our Saviour. And let us worship the Lord.

***Prayer of praise**

***Greeting**

***Song of praise** — LUYH 69 — *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.

Refrain

Words: Rory Cooney (b. 1952), based on the *Magnificat*, © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

Call to confession — The Letter of Paul to Romans 12
(New Testament for Everyone)

12 So, my dear family, this is my appeal to you by the mercies of God: offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. That's what properly thought-out worship looks like. ²What's more, don't let yourselves be squeezed into the shape dictated by the present age. Instead, be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you can work out what God's will is, what is good, acceptable and complete.

³Through the grace which was given to me, I have this to say to each one of you: don't think of yourselves more highly than you ought to think. Rather, think soberly, in line with faith, the true standard which God has marked out for each of you. ⁴As in one body we have many limbs and organs, you see, and all the parts have different functions, ⁵so we, many as we are, are one body in the Messiah, and individually we belong to one another.

⁶Well then, we have gifts that differ in accordance with the grace that has been given to us, and we must use them appropriately. If it is prophecy, we must prophesy according to the pattern of the faith. ⁷If it is serving, we must work at our serving; if teaching, at our teaching; ⁸if exhortation, at our exhortation; if giving, with generosity; if leading, with energy; if doing acts of kindness, with cheerfulness.

⁹Love must be real. Hate what is evil, stick fast to what is good. ¹⁰Be truly affectionate in showing love for one another; compete with each other in giving mutual respect. ¹¹Don't get tired of working hard. Be on fire with the spirit. Work as slaves for the Lord.

¹² Celebrate your hope; be patient in suffering; give constant energy to prayer; ¹³ contribute to the needs of God's people; make sure you are hospitable to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless them, don't curse them. ¹⁵ Celebrate with the joyful, mourn with the mourners. ¹⁶ Come to the same mind with one another. Don't give yourselves airs, but associate with the humble. Don't get too clever for yourselves.

¹⁷ Never repay anyone evil for evil; think through what will seem good to everyone who is watching. ¹⁸ If it's possible, as far as you can, live at peace with all people. ¹⁹ Don't take revenge, my dear people, but allow God's anger room to work. The Bible says, after all, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ No: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. If you do this, you will pile up burning coals on his head." ²¹ Don't let evil conquer you. Rather, conquer evil with good.

Song of confession — LUYH 874 — *We Are an Offering*

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you;
we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours;
we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be we give to you,
we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you;
we are an offering,
we are an offering.

Words: Dwight Liles (b. 1957) © 1984 Word Music Group, LLC

Prayer of confession — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Assurance of forgiveness — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Song of assurance — LUYH 117 — *Blest Are They

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.

Refrain

Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you;
holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God.

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
they shall have their fill.

Refrain

3. Blest are they who show mercy;
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
they shall see God.

Refrain

4. Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
the glory of God is theirs.

Refrain

5. Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.

Refrain

Words: David Haas (b. 1957), based on Matthew 5:3-12, © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Children's story — Pastor Greg Sinclair

*Song of praise — PsH 622 — *Magnify the Lord*

(sing twice, second time in round)

Magnify the Lord, magnify the Lord,
Magnify the Lord who is my Saviour and my God!
Magnify the Lord, magnify the Lord,
Magnify the Lord who is my Saviour!

Words: Bert Polman, 1985: based on the Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-49

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1984

Music © 1984, G.I.A. Publication.

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

Sunday School Dismissal

All children ages 3-12 are invited to join us for Bible stories, crafts
and games (completed registration required).

Prayer of illumination — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Scripture reading — Matthew 5:1-12 (GNV) — Pastor Greg Sinclair

- ¹ And when Jesus saw the multitude, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came to him.
- ² And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
- ³ Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed *are* they which hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
- ⁹ Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed *are* they which suffer persecution for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¹¹ Blessed shall ye be when men revile you, and persecute *you*, and say all manner of evil against you for my sake, falsely.
- ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the Prophets which were before you.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon — *Blessed Are the Persecuted* — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Song of response** — LUYH 353 — *Rejoice, O Pure in Heart*

1. Rejoice, O pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain
Rejoice, rejoice,
rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
2. Yes, on through life's long path,
still chanting as you go;
from youth to age, by night and day,
in gladness and in woe.

Refrain

3. At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest.

Refrain

4. Praise God, who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
one God forevermore.

Refrain

Words: Edward H. Plumptre, 1866, alt., P.D.

Offering Plate

1st Offering, Church Ministries, by cheque to the church or by online banking at any one of the 5 big banks, DUCA and Tangerine, and now on [CanadaHelps](#) (click on the link or scan QR code on the back page).

2nd Offering, Chaplaincy and Care Ministry, by cheque to the church.

Prayers of God's people — Beatrice Vandervelde

***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.

*catholic means universal

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.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give Him our thanks and praise.

All: Christ has died, Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.

You are invited to come forward to receive the elements.

Bread wrapped in plastic is gluten free.

Song during communion — LUYH 815 — Gift of Finest Wheat

Refrain

You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat.
Come, give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.

1. As when a shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your family, Lord,
we follow and rejoice.

Refrain

2. With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude,
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heavenly food.

Refrain

3. Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf declare
our oneness in the Lord?

Refrain

4. The mystery of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell.

Refrain

5. You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity.

Refrain

Words: Omer Westendorf, 1976, © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia, published by
International Liturgy Publications

***Benediction** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Sunday School Parents:

During the closing song (Doxology) of our worship together, a parent of Sunday School children is asked to go and sign your children out from the Sunday school classroom.

Doxology — LUYH 938 — *My Friends, May You Grow in Grace

My friends, may you grow in grace
and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour.

My friends, may you grow in grace
and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory, now and forever,
now and forever, amen.

To God be the glory, now and forever,
now and forever, amen.

Words: 2 Peter 3:18; Timothy James Meaney (b. 1965) and Sean Diamond (b. 1968); rev. Gregg DeMey (b. 1972) and Gregory Kett (b. 1970) © 1991, 2001
Wiseman Music

Postlude

The Weekly

Thank you from John Cappon & family:

John Cappon and the extended Cappon family wish to thank all the staff and volunteers of Willowdale CRC who helped make Helen's celebration of life service a memorable day for all. Thank you all for the love, care, and support during this difficult time.

Faith Promise 2025 PLEDGING YOUR SUPPORT FOR WCRC:

Dear Congregation:

Your Willowdale Council is asking that you prayerfully consider pledging your financial support for Willowdale CRC for 2025 by returning the pledge form by December 8th by email to either John Meiboom (john.meiboom@gmail.com) or Nasser Zand (zand.nasser@yahoo.ca) OR to hand it in to them at church.

In the Old Testament, God urged his people to give from the first fruits of the harvest to the temple. Your cooperation with this process is a way of doing that in our context. It will help us to finalize the 2025 budget.

Thank you for your support!

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**; Chaplaincy and Care Ministry.

Chaplaincy is a healing, reconciling ministry of God, an expression and extension of God's activity and mission in the world. It provides pastoral ministry in specialized settings to people who are hurting or in crisis, uprooted or dislocated. Through the presence of chaplains, the very settings in which they minister become surprising places of grace. Chaplains are exceptional, well-trained ministers of the Word or commissioned pastors who serve in specialized ministries beyond the walls of the church. Chaplains are specially trained, called and ordained by the church, and sent by Jesus Christ to provide spiritual care to people in pain or spiritual distress. Visit <https://crcna.org/chaplaincy>

Every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. all are welcome to attend a **ZOOM prayer meeting**, email Alana for the ZOOM link and to submit a prayer request or praise report (alana.yoneyama@willowdalecrc.com)

Birthdays:

There are no birthdays to report.

Ride Request:

A young senior woman who lives in the Senlac/Sheppard area would like a ride to church on Sunday mornings. She has transportation arrangements for a ride home after church. Please contact Alana at the church office (647 889 8508) or email if you can be part of a group who takes turns giving her a ride (alana.yoneyama@willowdalecrc.com).

Advent & Christmas Schedule – Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, December 1 – 1st Sunday of Advent, worship & baptism service starts at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 8 – 2nd Sunday of Advent, worship service starts at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 8 – Intercultural Potluck – Evening Christmas Gathering, more details will be shared as they become available.

Sunday, December 15 – 3rd Sunday of Advent, worship service starts at 10:00 a.m., includes Children’s Ministry skit, more details will be shared as they become available.

Saturday, December 21 – Christmas Party hosted by our **Farsi Fellowship**, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Willowdale Christian School, 60 Hilda Ave. All are welcome!

Sunday, December 22 – 4th Sunday of Advent, worship service starts at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 22 – Lessons & Carols Service, join us at 7:30 p.m. for this special service of reflection on our Saviour’s birth.

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day Service, come and rejoice, the service starts at **10:30 a.m.!**

ZOOM Host Schedule:

November 24 – Alana
December 1 – John
December 8 – Peter
December 15 – Alana
December 22 – Peter
December 25 – Alana
December 29 – Alana

Greeters Schedule:

November 24 – Cici L.
December 1 – Asal P.
December 8 – Ann G.
December 15 – Batac Family
December 22 – Rob D.
December 25 – Gerard D.
December 29 – Ferdinand & Nathan C.

Coffee & Tea Serving Schedule:

Nov 17 – Nelly, Zohreh, Sylvie
Nov 24 – Suzanne, Zohreh

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!**

Address: 70 Hilda Avenue, Willowdale, ON, M2M 1V5

Phone: 416-221-7829, Email: office@willowdalecrc.com

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

November 17, 2024