

# Willowdale

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



# Welcome to Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

February 23, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

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

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## **About the service:**

Worship spaces: In the church Sanctuary and on ZOOM

Worship leader and preacher: Pastor Greg Sinclair

Elder of service: WilmaJoy Veenstra

Song leader: Leanne Grauds

Reader: Peter Grauds

Worship musician: Hye-jin Im (piano, organ)

Simultaneous translation: Sylvie Charliekaram

Sound/Slides operators: Mary Martens, Ali B., Nancy Fernhout

Zoom host: Alana Yoneyama

Slides prepared by: Danelle Im

Greeter: Suzanne Christie

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

## **After the service:**

We invite you to join us for coffee and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

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

## **Reflection**

A world of fire and drought is a world in desperate need of water. And both Indigenous and Christian spirituality insist that this kind of drought needs deeper sources of living water if the watershed is to be healed.

– Brian Walsh

**Prelude** — We will learn “*Living Waters*” (please see the lyrics on pg. 6)

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

**\*Call to worship** — Matthew 11:19a, John 7:37-38, Psalm 81:16  
— Pastor Greg Sinclair

Leader: Friends, Jesus, the Son of Man, came to his Father’s world eating and drinking.

People: We too are hungry and thirsty.

Leader: Jesus says to us: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

People: We open our mouth wide; fill it, Lord.

Leader: Let us turn to God, and listen to Him, and follow His ways. We will be fed with the finest of wheat, and with honey from the rock God will satisfy us.

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

**\*God’s Greeting** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

**\*Song of praise** — LUYH 616 — *As a Deer in Want of Water*, vs. 1-3, 6

1. As a deer in want of water,  
so I long for you, O LORD.  
All my heart and being falter,  
thirsting for your living word.  
When shall I behold your face?  
When shall I receive your grace?  
When shall I, your praises voicing,  
come before you with rejoicing?

*Refrain*

O my soul, why are you grieving, why disquieted in me?  
Put your hope in God, believing he will still your refuge be.  
I again shall praise his grace for the comfort of his face;  
he will show his help and favour, for he is my God and Saviour.

2. Bitter tears of lamentation  
are my food by night and day.  
In my deep humiliation  
“Where is now your God?” they say.  
When my sorrows weigh on me,  
then I bring to memory  
how with throngs I would assemble,  
shouting praises in your temple.

*Refrain*

3. From the land beyond the Jordan  
in my grief I think of you;  
from the foothills of Mount Hermon  
I will still remember you.  
As the waters plunge and leap,  
stormy troubles o’er me sweep.  
Day and night God’s song is with me  
as a prayer to him who loves me.

*Refrain*

6. Send your light and truth to lead me:  
send them forth to be my guide.  
To your mountain let them bring me,  
to the place where you reside.  
Then, O God, I will come near  
and before your throne appear,  
to my Saviour praises bringing  
with the harp and joyful singing.

*Refrain*

Words: Psalter Hymnal, 1987, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

## **Call to confession** — John 4:1-26

**4** Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— <sup>2</sup>although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. <sup>3</sup>So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

<sup>4</sup>Now he had to go through Samaria. <sup>5</sup>So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his

son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

<sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

<sup>17</sup> "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

<sup>19</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

<sup>21</sup> "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."<sup>25</sup> The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will

explain everything to us.”<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

**Prayer of confession** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

**Assurance of forgiveness** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

**\*Song of assurance** — *Living Waters*

1. Are you thirsty? Are you empty?  
Come and drink these living waters.  
Tired and broken, peace unspoken,  
rest beside these living waters.
2. Christ is calling, find refreshing  
at the cross of living waters.  
Lay your life down, all the old gone,  
rise up in these living waters.

*Chorus*

There's a river that flows with mercy and love,  
bringing joy to the city of our God;  
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,  
praise the Lord of living waters.

3. Spirit moving, mercy washing;  
Healing in these living waters.  
Lead your children to the shoreline,  
life is in these living waters.

*Chorus*

4. Are you thirsty? Are you empty?  
Come and drink these living waters.  
Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless,  
Christ, He is our living waters.

*Chorus*

There's a river that flows with mercy and love,  
bringing joy to the city of our God;  
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,  
praise the Lord of living waters. X2

Ed Cash, Kristyn Getty CCLI Song #7063743 © 2016 Capitol CMG Paragon; Getty Music Pub.

## **Children's Message** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

### **\*Song** — PsH 197 — *The Trees of the Field*

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills  
Will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field  
will clap their hands,  
the trees of the field  
will clap their hands,  
the trees of the field  
will clap their hands  
while you go out with joy.

Music by Stuart Dauermann. Words by Steffi Geiser Rubin.

## **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** — Isaiah 55 (NIV) — Pastor Greg Sinclair

**55** "Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.  
<sup>2</sup>Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labour on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and you will delight in the richest of fare.  
<sup>3</sup>Give ear and come to me;  
listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
my faithful love promised to David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,  
a ruler and commander of the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not,  
and nations you do not know will come running to you,  
because of the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has endowed you with splendour.”

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.

<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake their ways  
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

<sup>8</sup> “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,”  
declares the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> “As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow  
come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it  
without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

<sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
It will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> You will go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and hills  
will burst into song before you,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,  
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.



This will be for the Lord's renown,  
for an everlasting sign,  
that will endure forever."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Sermon** — *Renewing Creation* — Pastor Greg Sinclair

**\*Song of response** — LUYH 21 — *This is My Father's World*

1. This is my Father's world,  
and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
his hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is my Father's world;  
the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world;  
he shines in all that's fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;  
he speaks to me everywhere.
3. This is my Father's world;  
oh, let me not forget  
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world;  
why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring!  
God reigns; let the earth be glad.

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901), P.D.

## Offering Plate

1<sup>st</sup> 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).

2<sup>nd</sup> Offering, The Banner, by cheque to the church.

## Prayers of God's people — WilmaJoy Veenstra

### \*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

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

**\*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 I. Morse © 1989 The Hymnal Project, used by permission of Brethren Press

**Postlude**

## Prayer Requests:

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

Please pray for our **2<sup>nd</sup> offering**; The Banner magazine shows how Christian faith in its Reformed expression makes sense for today's world. Whether we're addressing subjects like parenting, movies, politics, church ministries, or society we live in, The Banner explores all such issues from the perspective of the good news that in Christ God is reconciling the world himself. Your gift will help The Banner continue to provide this Reformed expression. <https://www.thebanner.org/>

## Birthdays:

February 27 — Corrie d.W.

## Food and Faith Conversation:

Youth and young adults are invited to gather right after the church service today for food, fellowship, catechism, and Bible study. This program is for six consecutive Sundays. For more information, please contact Pastor Greg.

## Human Sexuality Report – Gathering Tonight:

The Christian Reformed denomination has had extensive conversations about its [Human Sexuality Report](#) that was published five years ago. This evening (February 23) at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., we at Willowdale will develop initial reflections concerning this report through a conversation facilitated by Syd Hielema. Pastor Syd will suggest a framework for the conversation and invite a sharing of honest reflections for this sensitive topic. There will be coffee and dessert. For more information, please contact Pastor Greg. The session will be offered only in English.

## **Ordination Service for Nasser & Sylvie:**

On Wednesday, February 12 at the regular meeting of Classis Toronto, Nasser Zand and Sylvie Charliekaram passed their exam of faith and life as well as biblical and theological knowledge to be ordained as commissioned pastors in the Christian Reformed Church. Therefore, on **Sunday, March 2** we will, Lord willing, gather at 7:00 p.m. at the church to ordain Nasser and Sylvie as Commissioned Pastors, serving with Spiritual Growth Ministry, and continuing their Farsi Fellowship ministry at Willowdale CRC. We give thanks to God for this ordination journey and look forward to celebrating, encouraging Sylvie and Nasser, and praising God together.

## **Save the Date – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser:**

The Willowdale Fundraising Team will be hosting a pancake supper fundraiser for our church on **Shrove Tuesday, March 4**. There will be 2 seatings 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 each for adults, \$5.00 for children under 12 years old and under, children under 5 years old eat for free! Please speak to Beth Little about how to buy your tickets. The team is also in need of volunteers to help on March 4<sup>th</sup> with cooking and serving pancakes. Contact Beth Little if you help. [beth.marie.little@gmail.com](mailto:beth.marie.little@gmail.com)

## **Ash Wednesday:**

On **Wednesday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m.**, Willowdale will hold an Ash Wednesday service.

In the universal or catholic tradition of the Church, Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a forty-day period that leads up to Holy Week and Easter. During Lent, we meditate on the way to the cross that Jesus took to liberate us from sin and death. On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on either our forehead or wrist to remind us of the biblical truth, “You are dust, and to dust you will return.” (Genesis 3) When we live and die in union with Christ, death is defeated, and God has a final word of life for us.

Come and deepen your union with Christ on Ash Wednesday and on all the Sundays in Lent.

## Reformational Journey Through Lent:

During the Sundays in Lent we will be focussing on our Reformed tradition and how we speak with a Reformed accent. How do we live into this rich biblical tradition that we have learned from Calvin, Kuyper, Bavinck, Seerveld, Mouw and others? For example, we will begin by learning about divine sovereignty and the four derivatives: common grace, antithesis, sphere sovereignty and the church as institute and organism. We will go from there together on our journey towards the cross where Jesus brings renewal and redemption, grace restoring nature, God's sovereign plan.

### ZOOM Host Schedule:

February 23 – Alana

### Greeters Schedule:

February 23 – Suzanne C.

### Coffee & Tea Serving Schedule:

February 23 – Alana Y., Nasim K., Haniyeh H., Lelia N.

#### **Please Note Upcoming Changes to Liturgy Publication:**

Starting on **Sunday, March 2**, to be good stewards of the environment and finances, the liturgy bulletins will be reduced to **12 pages and 100 hard copies**. As usual you will receive via email on Saturday mornings the ZOOM link, liturgy, and Willowdale Weekly in separate files.

A few hard copies of the Willowdale Weekly will be available from the welcome table in the Narthex for guests, and members who do not use email.

***Please consider sharing a copy of the liturgy on Sunday mornings so there are enough to go around.***

Thank you for understanding and supporting this change.

#### **From the Deacons:**

Starting in March your offerings will be collected from the pews during the worship service, as was done before in pre-pandemic times. Please contact the deacons if you have any questions.

