

Willowdale

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Welcome to Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

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

Third Sunday in Lent

*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: Dan Carter

Reader: Beatrice Vandervelde

Song leader: John Meiboom

Worship musician: Hye-jin Im (piano)

Simultaneous translation: Pastor Sylvie Charliekaram

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

Zoom host: Peter Grauds

Slides prepared by: Mary Martens

Greeter: Rob Datema

*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 or call: 289-925-4390.

Please remember to read the Willowdale Weekly each week (as attached to the ZOOM email), for urgent prayer requests and important news. A few hard copies are available from the welcome table.

Reflection

By his obedience, however, Christ truly acquired and merited grace for us by his Father. Many passages of Scripture surely and firmly attest to this.

– John Calvin

Prelude — *Love (III)*: poem by George Herbert;
turn to page 11 to read the poem
— *Opus 26*: background music by Dustin O'Halloran

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

***Call to worship** — John 1:1-2, 14 — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Leader: Let us worship Him, Jesus Christ, and His Father our God, in spirit and in truth.

***Song of praise** — LUYH 17 — *Beautiful Saviour*

1. Beautiful Saviour! King of creation!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.

4. Beautiful Saviour! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honour, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

Words: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873, P.D

***Prayer of praise** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***God's Greeting** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Call to confession — John 3:1-6, 13-21 (NKJV)

3 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

³Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

⁵Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

¹³No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Prayer of confession — Dan Carter

Assurance of forgiveness — Dan Carter

***Song of assurance** — LUYH 682 — *Before the Throne of God Above*

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.
2. When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.
3. Behold him there! The risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable “I AM,”
the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God.

Words: Charitie Lees DeCheney Bancroft (1841-1923), P.D.

Children's Message — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Song** — LUYH 610 — *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* — Miss Betty

Sing twice

Lord, I lift your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life;
I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth
to show the way,
from the earth to the cross,
my debt to pay,
from the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky.
Lord, I lift your name on high!

Words: Rick Founds (b. 1954) © 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc., admin. Music Services

***The Lord's Prayer** — Nafas

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.

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 — Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV) — Pastor Greg Sinclair

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one

time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon — *Grace Alone* — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Song of response** — LUYH 897 — *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear—
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.
2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness—
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge—
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

Words: Joseph M. Scriven (1820-1866), P.D

Prayers of God's people — Pastor Greg Sinclair

Offering of our gifts

1st Offering, Church Ministries (red bag)

2nd Offering, Spiritual Growth Ministry, please read the **Willowdale Weekly** for more information about this offering cause.

Offering of song — LUYH 691 — *Amazing Grace*

1. Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
3. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Words: st. 1-4 John Newton, 1779, st. 5 A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, P.D.

Prayer over the offering — Deacon

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

Apostles' Creed

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.

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.
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 842 — *I Am the Bread of Life*

1. I am the Bread of life;
they who come to me shall not hunger;
they who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father draws them.

Refrain

And I will raise them up,
and I will raise them up,
and I will raise them up on the last day.

2. The Bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and they who eat of this bread,
they shall live forever, they shall live forever.

Refrain

3. I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
They who believe in me,
even if they die, they shall live forever.

Refrain

4. Yes, Lord, we believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God
who has come into the world.

Refrain

Words: Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927), based on John 6:35, 44; 11:25 © 1970 GIA Publications, Inc.

***Benediction** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Doxology** — LUYH 947 — *We Receive Your Blessing*

We receive your blessing; we receive your grace,
as we walk in the light shining from your face.
May the peace that you give change the way that we live.
We receive your blessing as we leave this place.
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, you heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and praise the Holy Ghost.
We receive your blessing as we leave this place.

Words: Grace and Natasha Moes © 2003 Unity Music Ministries

Postlude

Prelude Poem — *Love (III)* — By George Herbert

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back
 Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
 If I lacked any thing.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:
 Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,
 I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
 Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
 Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
 My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
 So I did sit and eat.

Source: George Herbert and the Seventeenth-Century Religious Poets (W. W. Norton and Company, Inc., 1978)

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

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Song and service credits

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