Willowdale
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

# Welcome to Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

October 4, 2026, 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

Preacher: Pastor Greg Sinclair

Elder of service: Rob Datema

Song leader: John Meiboom

Reader: Leanne Grauds

Worship musician: Mary Gerritsma (piano)

Sound/Slides operators: Nicholas Van Lingen, Nancy Fernhout, Ali B.

Zoom host: Alana Yoneyama

Slides prepared by: Leanne Grauds

Greeters: Asal P.

Hall Monitor: WilmaJoy Veenstra

Photography and video recordings of the service are not permitted.

Simultaneous sermon translation is available in Farsi and Mandarin; as well as English captioning. Please see the Greeters for instructions.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

## After the service:

We invite you to join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

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

**Reflection**

First of all, the passage emphatically calls the church to claim its identity as a people with a distinct character and mission, a counter cultural prophetic community.

– Richard B. Hays

**Prelude** — *"Thanksgiving Eve"* — by Bob Franke

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

***Call to worship** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Song of praise** — LUYH 46 — *How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely*

1. How lovely, Lord, how lovely
   is your abiding place;
   my soul is longing, fainting,
   to feast upon your grace.
   The sparrow finds a shelter,
   a place to build her nest,
   and so your temple calls us
   within its walls to rest.

2. In your blest courts to worship,
   O God, a single day
   is better than a thousand
   if I from you should stray.
   I'd rather keep the entrance
   and claim you as my Lord
   than revel in the riches
   the ways of sin afford.

3. A sun and shield forever
   are you, O Lord Most High;
   you shower us with blessings;
   no good will you deny.
   The saints, your grace receiving,
   from strength to strength shall go,
   and from their life shall rivers
   of blessing overflow.

Words: Arlo Duba © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

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

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

**Gospel reading** — Mark 7:1-23 (NIV)

**7** The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come
from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus **2** and saw some of his disciples
eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. **3** (The
Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a
ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. **4** When
they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash.
And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups,
pitchers and kettles.)
**5** So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't
your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of
eating their food with defiled hands?"
**6** He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you
hypocrites; as it is written:
"'These people honour me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
**7** They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.'
**8** You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to
human traditions."
**9** And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the
commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! **10** For
Moses said, 'Honour your father and mother,' and, 'Anyone who
curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' **11** But you say that
if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their
father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)— **12** then you no
longer let them do anything for their father or mother. **13** Thus you
nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down.
And you do many things like that."
**14** Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me,
everyone, and understand this. **15** Nothing outside a person can defile
them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that
defiles them."
**17** After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples
asked him about this parable. **18** "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't

you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? [19] For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) [20] He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. [21] For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, [22] adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. [23] All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

**Song of confession** — LUYH 700 — *Your Mercy Flows* (*sing twice*)

Your mercy flows upon us like a river.
Your mercy stands unshakable and true.
Most holy God, of all good things the giver,
we turn and lift our fervent prayer to you.
Hear our cry, (Hear our cry,)
O Lord, (O Lord,)
be merciful (be merciful)
once more. (once more.)
Let your love, (Let your love,)
your anger stem; (your anger stem;)
remember mercy, O Lord, again.

Words: Wes Sutton (b. 1955) © 1988 Sovereign Lifestyle Music, Ltd.

**Prayer of confession** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

**Word of assurance** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Song of assurance** — LUYH 665 – *I heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me; your morn shall rise
and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Words: Horatius Bonar, 1846, P.D.

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

**Memory Verses for Children, Big and Small** — Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

***Let's Sing about how God wants us to Love**

— LUYH 930 — *This Little Light of Mine*

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2. Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine . . .

3. Jesus gave it to me; I'm gonna let it shine . . .

Words: African American spiritual, P.D.

**Sunday School dismissal**

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

**Prayer for illumination** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

**Scripture reading** — 1 Corinthians 4:14 - 5:13 (NIV) — Pastor Greg Sinclair

**14** I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear
children. **15** Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do
not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father
through the gospel. **16** Therefore I urge you to imitate me. **17** For this
reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is
faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ
Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.
**18** Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you.
**19** But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will
find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what
power they have. **20** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but
of power. **21** What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod of
discipline, or shall I come in love and with a gentle spirit?
**5** It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you,
and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with
his father's wife. **2** And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone
into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has
been doing this? **3** For my part, even though I am not physically
present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this
way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on
the one who has been doing this. **4** So when you are assembled and I
am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,
**5** hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that
his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.
**6** Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens
the whole batch of dough? **7** Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may
be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our
Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. **8** Therefore let us keep the
Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
**9** I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral
people— **10** not at all meaning the people of this world who are

immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. **11** But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.
**12** What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? **13** God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked person from among you."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Sermon** — *Striving Towards Holiness*— Pastor Greg Sinclair

***Song of response** — LUYH 538 — *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
   Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
   holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,
   God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
   casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
   cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
   who wert and art and evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
   though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
   only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
   perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
   All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
   holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,
   God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

   Words: Reginald Heber, 1827, alt., P.D.

**Prayers of God's people** — Rob Datema

## Offering of our gifts

1st Offering, Church Ministries (red bag)
2nd Offering, **Diaconate** (blue bag)

## Offering of music

## Prayer over the offering — Deacon

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

**The Invitation**

**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.<br>Christ has died, Christ has risen,<br>Christ will come again. |

**The Lord's prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

**The Communion**

You are invited to come forward to receive the elements.
*Bread wrapped in plastic is gluten free.*

**Communion song** — LUYH 837 — *Let Us Break Bread Together*

1. Let us break bread together on our knees;
   let us break bread together on our knees.

   *Refrain*
   When I fall on my knees,
   with my face to the Lord of life,
   O Lord, have mercy on me.

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees;
   let us drink wine together on our knees.

   *Refrain*

3. Let us praise God together on our knees;
   let us praise God together on our knees.

   *Refrain*

Words: African American spiritual, P.D.

***Doxology** — LUYH 928 verse 4 — *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

4. Called through worship to your service,
   forth in your dear name we go,
   to the child, the youth, the aged,
   love in living deeds to show.
   Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
   counsel, aid, and peace we give,
   that your servants, Lord, in freedom
   may your mercy know, and live.

Words: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984), alt., © 1988 Oxford University Press, reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press

***Benediction** — Pastor Greg Sinclair

## Announcements

Please deposit your communion cup in a bin on your way out of the Sanctuary. Thank you.

**Postlude** — *"We Receive Your Blessing"*
— by Grace & Natasha Moes, arr. by Gerritsma.

# Sermon notes

**Willowdale Christian Reformed Church**
**We are on The Bridge App!** 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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**Song and service credits**

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