

Willow Springs Worship April 26, 2020

Welcome to our Willow Springs worship this Easter Season!

Call to worship: SS#179

Thine is the glory
The Lord is risen indeed

Affirming our faith

All: Since we have been raised to new life with Christ, we set our sights on the realities of heaven where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.

We think about the things of heaven.

We too have died to the things of this earth and our real life is hidden with Christ in God.

And when Christ, who is our life, is revealed to the whole world, we will share in all his glory. Thanks be to God (Colossians 3:1-4, NLT).

Songs:

Lord I lift Your Name on high
Hallelujah He is here

Children's time:

We can go through our day thinking about what mom or dad might be having us eat for supper. When we find out what it is we can be disappointed. But we go to the supper table, put food on our plates and eat. My oh, my what a good meal.

Some other times we go through life and things just don't work out like we hoped. But, God can still work and things turn out better than we could have thought about.

Sometimes it seems God interrupts us on the journey of life and it can be a formative experience for us.

Let's pray together - Lord there is so much we don't know about life. We can plan things and it doesn't work out. But thanks that some ever better times can come to us and we grow in trusting in you and celebrating life.

Luke 24:13-35, and Acts 16:6-10

Listen to the sermon by Jacob Landis - **God of Interruptions**

Christ has arisen

It's what the Lord has done for me

Sharing - Pastoral prayer

The Lord walks with us these days in all the unanswered questions in our lives and around the world.

Prayer for many impacted by the coronavirus:

+Health care workers, and other leaders in care centers.

+Neighbors near and far.

+The unemployed.

+Small business owners.

+Those with the virus.

+Those with other illnesses.

+People around the world grieving the loss of a loved one.

+The poor and homeless.

+All in developing countries.

+Societal and cultural institutions.

+National leaders all over the world.

We offer our lives to the Lord for encounters of life in the midst of the pressure and stress of the CV19 challenges.

Give us wisdom as we know we belong to you and each other!

Offerings can be mailed to Willow Springs at PO BOX 386, Tiskilwa, 61368

Benediction -

L: We came to worship

P: we go now to serve

L: we have been given the light

P: we go now to let it shine

L: we have been blessed by Jesus visiting us

P: we go now in hope

L: We are Christ's disciples

P: We go now in the hope of the Kingdom

Christ is alive and goes before us.

Luke 24:13-35 The Voice (VOICE)

13 Picture this:

That same day, two other disciples (not of the eleven) are traveling the seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus. 14 As they walk along, they talk back and forth about all that has transpired during recent days. 15 While they're talking, discussing, and conversing, Jesus catches up to them and begins walking with them, 16 but for some reason they don't recognize Him.

Jesus: 17 You two seem deeply engrossed in conversation. What are you talking about as you walk along this road?

They stop walking and just stand there, looking sad. 18 One of them—Cleopas is his name—speaks up.

Cleopas: You must be the only visitor in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about what's been going on over the last few days.

Jesus: 19 What are you talking about?

Two Disciples: It's all about the man named Jesus of Nazareth. He was a mighty prophet who did amazing miracles and preached powerful messages in the sight of God and everyone around. 20 Our chief priests and authorities handed Him over to be executed—crucified, in fact.

21 We had been hoping that He was the One—you know, the One who would liberate all Israel and bring God's promises. Anyway, on top of all this, just this morning—the third day after the execution— 22 some women in our group really shocked us. They went to the tomb early this morning, 23 but they didn't see His body anywhere. Then they came back and told us they did see something—a vision of heavenly messengers—and these messengers said that Jesus was alive. 24 Some people in our group went to the tomb to check it out, and just as the women had said, it was empty. But they didn't see Jesus.

Jesus: 25 Come on, men! Why are you being so foolish? Why are your hearts so sluggish when it comes to believing what the prophets have been saying all along? 26 Didn't it have to be this way? Didn't the Anointed One have to experience these sufferings in order to come into His glory?

Luke has told his story. It ends with joy and praise. The crucified Jesus has been resurrected and has ascended to heaven to take His place at God's right hand just as the ancient prophets predicted. For the band of disciples, Easter joy has eclipsed

Good Friday sorrow.

This ending point becomes the starting point for Luke's sequel, known as the Acts of the Apostles. The story isn't really over; it's just begun. The life and ministry of Jesus that Luke has just recounted is the mustard-seed stage of the kingdom of God that continues to grow and grow and grow. Now it's time for this Kingdom to fill the world. If Luke's Gospel is about what Jesus began to do and teach, then Luke's sequel is about what the risen Jesus continues to do and teach through His followers for millennia. Luke writes in hope that future believers will be taken up into this beautiful story that will never, ever end.

27 Then He begins with Moses and continues, prophet by prophet, explaining the meaning of the Hebrew Scriptures, showing how they were talking about the very things that had happened to Jesus.

28 About this time, they are nearing their destination. Jesus keeps walking ahead as if He has no plans to stop there, 29 but they convince Him to join them.

Two Disciples: Please, be our guest. It's getting late, and soon it will be too dark to walk.

So He accompanies them to their home. 30 When they sit down at the table for dinner, He takes the bread in His hands, He gives thanks for it, and then He breaks it and hands it to them. 31 At that instant, two things happen simultaneously: their eyes are suddenly opened so they recognize Him, and He instantly vanishes—just disappears before their eyes.

Two Disciples (to each other): 32 Amazing! Weren't our hearts on fire within us while He was talking to us on the road? Didn't you feel it all coming clear as He explained the meaning of the Hebrew Scriptures?

33 So they get up immediately and rush back to Jerusalem—all seven miles—where they find the eleven gathered together—the eleven plus a number of others. 34 Before Cleopas and his companion can tell their story, the others have their own story to tell.

Other Disciples: The Lord has risen indeed! It's true! He appeared to Simon!

35 Then the two men report their own experience—their conversation along the road, their moment of realization and recognition as He broke the bread.

Acts 16:6-10 New International Version (NIV)

Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia

6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.