

Willow Springs Worship recorded for May 3, 2020

Prelude: Praise the One who breaks the darkness SS#1

Call to Worship

There are many gifts, talents, and abilities given by God.

But there is only one Spirit.

There are a variety of things we can do to serve the Lord.

But it is the same Lord we all serve.

There are many activities we can do to serve God:

teach, sing, clean, preach, play, work...

But all these are activated by God.

There are many manifestations of God's Spirit in the world.

It is impossible to list them all.

To say that one is better than another is foolish.

God gives to each as God chooses.

We are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

The Spirit connects us to one another wherever we are!

ALL: Thanks be to Our Living Lord!

Songs:

Holy Spirit comes with power HWB#26

Put peace into each other's hands SJ#87

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. (Colossians 3:1-4, NLT).

Song: Garments of praise

Children's time: What's one of your favorite things of life? I think one of them is being with other people. BUT, that's the huge challenge with the social distancing in this time of pandemic cautions.

A couple of thousand years ago, the Holy Spirit brought the early believers together. Everyday they got together. They listened and learned. They talked to each other. They shared communion. They prayed together. They shared with each other. What a blessing that has inspired us over all these years.

Someday we will get together to be with other people - One of our favorite things to do! We will gather as the church in light the Spirit of Jesus. In the mean time, we might not be with each other in the same room yet, we belong to each other in the love of Jesus.

Scriptures:

Acts 2:42-47

The Fellowship of the Believers

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 8:1b-4

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

Sermon: *Community When Separated*

By Jacob Landis

Songs:

Seeds scattered and sown HWB#454

We are people of God's peace HWB#407

Prayer

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

Song: Peace before us SS#16

Benediction

L: We devote ourselves: to the apostles' teaching

P: to guide our lives

L: to fellowship

P: even waiting for the day to be together

L: to the breaking of bread,

P: remembering Jesus

L: and to prayer.

P: We connect with the Lord lifting each other in thanks.

L: Continue in peace!