

Willow Springs Worship recorded for July 12, 2020

Call to Worship

L: We read, hear and sense, we are God's beloved child.

P: We are called to align our lives with Jesus and live in God's love!

L: The ways which God ordains are ways of peace and hope.

P: The love of God shall conquer the world.

L: Rejoice, O people of God, for God is near!

P: Praise God for God's power and might, God's love and peace. AMEN.

Songs: Eternal God, glory be Your Name

We are a vapor

Prayer of confession: Lord renew our hope in you.

As the earth is being refreshed by the summer rain, so we have been refreshed and made new by the resurrection of you, Lord Jesus Christ.

And we want to stay in this euphoria forever.

But you have called us to go into the valley, to those who need to hear of your love and to feel your caring presence.

In your words of hope, Jesus, you prepared your disciples to be witnesses.

We have heard these words before, but far too often, we have turned our backs to your message.

We don't quite believe that we are capable of actually living our whole lives in your love.

So we act in ways that are often neglectful and hurtful of others.

We take more time pampering ourselves than we do helping other people.

It is easier to justify our selfish desires than it is to witness to your transforming love.

Stop us in our tracks, O Lord.

Turn us around.

Help us to face our weakness and your forgiving grace.

Heal us of our sins, and place us again on the paths of peace.

We confess. You empower us!

We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE :

The commandment that we have from Christ Jesus is that we love one another, treating each other as beloved brothers and sisters. Abide in God's eternal love. Let its power and joy penetrate your hearts and spirits, preparing you for new growth in the Spirit. AMEN .

Songs: How great the Father's love

God's love is for everybody

Children's time: Let's say our Mom or Dad asks us to clean our room. From 1 John five we hear " This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome," Obeying has to do with aligning our thoughts with someone else and then acting on that thought. Our mom or dad might say something we should do. Then, we decide. Do I do it or not. OR, do I align my thought with their thought. Do I listen to what their idea is? We might hear the words, but to listen would be to take the words in our thoughts and then make them our own. Then, we decide to act.

Sure with cleaning our room, there are many other things I would like to do - many other thoughts to align with. But when I obey, I think of what they said. I listen and make it my own. I decide

to clean my room.

We align our lives up with God for life. God, in Jesus, teaches us how to live. Jesus teaches love. We decide to love God, our true self, others and creation. We find life.

Pray: Thanks Lord we care trust you in all things! Help us to know your thoughts and words so we can line up with your thoughts and really lives. Thanks, Lord. Amen.

Scripture: 1 John 5:1-12

Sermon: LIFE, By Faith, in the Son

Songs: I want to walk as a child of the light SJ#95

Make me a channel of your peace SJ#56

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

The Lord walks with us these days in all the unanswered questions in our lives and around the world! Pandemic. Economy. Striving for a just society. Normal challenges and other disappointments in life.

For transformation of the systems we live into toward a just society.

May your presence work: in the protestors message, in family groups, in community leaders and government leaders for transformation away from racism in us and among us.

Prayer for many impacted by the coronavirus:

+**Heath 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.**

+**Postal and retail workers**

+ **The moments towards a new normal.**

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

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

Song: Give me Jesus SJ#45

God is changing everything

Benediction: Friends and Beloved of Christ, you have been chosen to go into this world with the message of God's love.

Bear fruit of hope and joy, peace and justice, with all that you meet.

Trust the Lord. Live in love.

May God's peace be with you all. AMEN

Song: Allelujah #1 S&R#3