

## **Willow Springs Worship recorded for August 2, 2020**

**Song:** Come, now is the time to worship SJ#9

**Call to Worship:** Call upon the Lord, and God will answer.  
Show us your steadfast love, gracious God,  
this day and always.

### **Opening Prayer:**

L: Jacob was left alone, and a being wrestled with him  
until daybreak.

**P: As you came to Jacob in the night, come to us,  
that we may be satisfied when we awake.**

L: Jacob said, "I will not let you go until you bless me."

**P: The being said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob,  
but Israel, for you have striven with God  
and with humans, and have prevailed."**

L: And there God blessed him.

As you blessed Jacob, bless us,  
that we may behold your face.

In our wrestling:

**All: Come to us Lord,  
heal us,  
and bless us,  
everlasting and merciful God. Amen.**

**Songs:** The churches one foundation HWB#311  
I love to tell the story HWB#398

### **Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God,  
provider of all we need,  
we are often content to rely on our own devices,  
our creativity, our cleverness.  
We congratulate ourselves for our accomplishments,  
yet we find that these achievements and acquisitions  
do not fill the deep hunger inside of us.  
We long for the Spirit peace you alone can provide.  
Forgive us, merciful God.  
Help us receive the blessings you offer,  
that we may be your bread for the world—  
blessed, broken for all.

### **Words of Assurance**

Hear the good news.  
God's mercy is plentiful, and God's grace is abundant.  
Receive the bread of forgiveness and steadfast love.

**Song:** Be still God will fight the battle  
Listen, listen God is calling

**Children's time:** Sometimes I wonder how many decisions I make in a 24 hour period of time. I guess there are the normal, day to day decision like how I get my oatmeal going in the morning. I decide when it's time and then mix it. I heat it up and eat it up.

I decide what to do to take care of myself. I decide what to do during the day and when to do it. I decide what to do with the ideas I hear in songs, read on the screen or in books. Carol and I decide all kinds of decisions together.

Sometimes there are big decisions that I think I need to think about a lot! I can think during the day. I can wake up at night and think about them.

In my decisions, I like help. So, I'm so thankful that there are other people I can talk to. I'm so happy that I can pray and talk to Jesus about decisions. Then I can think about how the decisions impact family, the church, people around me and around the world. So we do make a lot of decisions and making them trusting God changes everything. Then, we can make decisions in hope!

Pray: Thanks Lord for your friendship as we go though life making all kinds of decisions. Thanks that you love us and walk with us like you have with all the people in the Bible and around us now. We look to you for guidance and wisdom in all things!

**Scripture:** Genesis 32

**Sermon:** The Lord in the Struggle: Wrestle, Hold On, Look Ahead

**Songs:** God of the Bible SJ#27  
Come thou fount HWB#521

### **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:

- +**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.**
- +**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, IL 61368

**Song:** Jesus, be the center SS#31

**Benediction:** We come to these moments with different needs:

some of us wrestling with problems

that threaten to overwhelm us;

some of us crying out for healing,

for relevance, for refuge;

some of us hungering

for what God alone can provide.

In this moment and in this place,

God is here. God is with us. God meets us face to face.

Wrestle. Hold on.

Peace to you on the journey.

**Song:** Praise God from whom HWB#118