

Willow Springs Worship recorded for August 16, 2020

Call to Worship:

In the midst of our failures,

We stand by faith in God's grace.

In the midst of our struggles,

We boast in our hope through Christ.

In the midst of our suffering,

We claim the endurance given by the Holy Spirit.

In every part of our lives,

The love of our Divine Creator has been poured into our hearts.

All: Let us be open to this love as we worship.

Opening Prayer:

Our gracious and ever loving God,

we come in the midst of summer looking for refreshment.

We rest in the knowledge of the wonderful works you have done for us.

We hope in the the deep and abiding love you have for us and for all your people.

Search our hearts.

Fill our soul with your indwelling Spirit

who whispers to our soul

that all will be well if we but trust in you.

Shine your light before us to give us hope,

that we may see our path to you

and to your kingdom on earth. Amen.

Songs: This is the air I breathe

All who are thirsty

Prayer of Confession

God of infinite mercy,

when we neglect the humbleness

of knowing our place in this world,

All: forgive us;

when we trade your peace and calls for unity

for conflict and violence,

All: forgive us;

when we forsake our good character,

to join those who scoff at your ways,

All: forgive us;

when we ignore your truth,

and turn away from your wisdom,

All: forgive us.

Forgive us and heal us, Lord,

that we may abide in your grace

and your love forever.

All: Amen.

Words of Assurance (Romans 5)
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
God fills our souls with grace and wisdom.
It is from this grace that we have hope.
It is from this wisdom that we know God's love.
It is from the living God
that we find life and forgiveness.

Songs: Lord Jesus Christ be present now HWB#22
Holy spirit come with power HWB#26

Children's time: Do you think about what you will do next?
Do you think about what you might do tomorrow?
Are those happy thoughts? Or they might be a bit scary, like having to go or do something that we do not like. If we think about something that we are going to do and the feeling with the thought is happiness, we call that hope! In the love of Jesus, we find an awesome hope. Why? We think of God being with us every night and every day. We think Jesus teaching us how to live. We think of Jesus giving us life forever. Our hope then carries an even deeper meaning. We think of what is next and know joy.
As people that follow Jesus we grow in living in hope for what we will do or what might happen next. God's love is with us in all of time now and forever in the future.
Pray: Thanks Lord for your presence that we can think about the future and know you are with us. Then, we can know joy in the future with the hope - a hope that will never disappoint us!
In Jesus' Name! Amen.

Scripture:

Romans 5:1-8 Peace and Hope

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 8:18-25

Present Suffering and Future Glory

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that[h] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Sermon: Dealing With Future: Hope

Song: Breathe on me breath of God HWB#356
Many gifts one Spirit SR#71

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

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

What a new experience to have the derecho wind storm come through on Monday. Thousands have been effected. Many corn feilds were destroyed in Iowa and in Cedar Rapids the damage was like a hurricane went through. There were many branches down at the church. Thanks to the 14 who helped clean up on Thursday!

Pandemic. Economy. "Back to School" time, 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, IL 61368 We enter into the last month of our fiscal year. Thanks for your generosity.

Song: God sends us the Spirit HWF#293

Benediction:

As you go into the week ahead,
with whatever joys and challenges it holds,
do not be discouraged or disheartened.
Remember the glory that awaits you as a child of God.
Hold on to that truth by faith;
live in that hope.
And may the peace of God,
the blessing of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit
be with you
as your journey unfolds.
Amen.