

## **Willow Springs Worship recorded for August 23, 2020**

### **Call to Worship:**

L: Come out of the darkness of despair into the brightness of God's transforming love.

P: We praise God for the Spirit's presence with us!

L: Prepare your hearts and spirits to receive God's mercy and healing.

P: We thank God for God's deep compassion toward us.

L: Come, let us praise and worship God who is always with us in love.

P: Thanks be to God at all times and in all places. AMEN.

**Opening Prayer:** Gracious God, we come this day seeking courage and hope for the future. Our world is in such peril. Heal these wounds and quiet the words of division. Help us to be those who bring peace in our families and communities. Banish the darkness of doubt and fear; anoint us with your light and love that we may spread the good news of your mercy to everyone. In Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN.

**Songs:** Heart with loving heart united HWB#420  
I bind my heart HWB#411

### **Prayer of Confession**

Jesus, friend and brother,  
you taught us to abide in your generous love,  
for it completes our lives and gives us joy;  
you ask us to love others as you have loved us,  
for it brings your creation to fruition.  
We sometimes struggle  
to love the people in our lives  
as you have loved us.  
Forgive us, we pray,  
and teach us your love again. Amen.

### **Words of Assurance**

Long ago Jesus said to his disciples,  
"I have called you friends, because I have made  
known to you everything that I have heard from God.  
You did not choose me, but I chose you!"  
Jesus speaks these words to us today.  
Jesus forgives us and chooses us to be his friends,  
sharing his great work of love. Hallelujah!

**Song:** Beauty for brokenness SS#115

**Children's time:** Do you have any clocks in your house that need to be wound up? Do you hear them? We have two of those kinds of clocks in our house. Tick-toc, tick-toc, tick-toc. They keep going seconds to minutes to hours. The sound reminds me of the importance of time. Then I think of thinking about time. Some people say they spend time. It's like money. Each person decides. I like to talk about sharing time. When I am sharing time I am with other people. They share time with me. Or, I am sharing time with God when I talk to God or worship or sit thinking of Jesus and God's love. The tick-toc reminds me of God's love now and forever.

The clock helps me think of ways to celebrate life with other people. We have moment of time. When we love others, the moments are shared for celebrations of life.

Pray: Thanks Lord for the life we have in these moments of time. Thanks that we can share with with you and other and know love. We love you. We want to grow loving others in our lives. Thanks again for your love and the life we live in you, moment by moment. In Jesus' Name! Amen.

**Scripture:** John 15:9-17, Romans 13:8-14, 1 Corinthians 13:13

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

**Sermon:** Dealing with time: Love the Priority of the Moment

**Songs:** Love the Lord Your God SS#55

Love is patient and kind S&R72

The love of God SJ#44

### **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 fields were destroyed in Iowa and in Cedar Rapids the damage was like a hurricane went through.

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:

+**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.**

Anna in her pneumonia.

Meg dealing with her seizures.

+**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:** For God so loved us HWB#167

**Benediction:** Jesus speaks again this moment of time:

“This is my commandment,  
that you love one another  
as I have loved you.”

Continue in joy and faithfulness, knowing that you,  
the chosen friends of Jesus, abide in Jesus’ love  
and bear the gift of this love to the world. Amen.