

Willow Springs Worship recorded for August 30, 2020

Prelude: Changes

Call to Worship:

L: Friends, we gather our thoughts together to proclaim the ways in which God is working.

P: We have been blessed by God!

L: We gather together to give thanks for the ways in which God is working.

P: We are being blessed by God!

L: We gather together to open our eyes to the ways God is using us to work.

P: We will continue to be blessed by God!

L: Dear ones, God has given us so much and is very much alive, at work and still speaking among us. We are called to give back.

P: We are called to be good stewards; good stewards of our time, of our resources and of our money.

L: Let us give thanks to our God of blessings and affirm our commitment to the ministry God is calling us into.

ALL: Let us give thanks to God!

Let us proclaim our faith in God!

Let us worship God!

Songs: Praise the Lord, sing alleluia HWB#50
Immortal invisible God only wise

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you promised to do great things for us, yet at times, we do not trust you.

You extend your mercy to us, yet we do not trust you.

You lift up the humble, you fill the hungry with good things, and yet we still do not trust you.

You call us to show your ways, and yet we do not step forward.

Forgive us.

Help us to trust in the promises you have given us.

Help us to radically follow You.

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Songs: Songs of deliverance

Christ has arisen HWB#267

Children's time:

Let's imagine I pull out a basket full of candy and say, "I would like to give them a piece of candy. But not to eat it yet!" So you choose one piece and then have a seat.

After all the children get a piece, I tell them that this candy isn't for them – it is to give to someone else.

"How does it make you feel that I asked you to give this candy to someone else?"

It probably feels pretty bad because you think the candy was for your self.

Maybe you feel tricked.

Maybe you didn't really want the candy anyway. Who knows how you might respond?

Now, imagine each of us having another piece of candy. Now, you have one piece for themselves and one to give away.

“How does it feel to have a second piece that you can keep?”

You notice that when you have something to be grateful for, it is often easier to give the other piece away.

Too often, we don't even realize all that we have to be grateful for, and when that is the case, it makes it a lot harder to be generous and care for others.

This week, you may want to practice gratitude as a family. As you get up or when you go to bed, consider making lists or drawing pictures of all the things you are grateful for: feeling supported, cared for and protected ... keep all these lists and pictures and look at them again at the end of the week with your family.

As you notice all you have, consider how God might be inviting you to be generous with others. You might even want to pray together with your family, ‘God, help us to see how you might use our gifts for your work in this world.’ Then, pay attention to the invitations or nudges you sense to care for all people and God's creation.”

Pray: Thanks Lord fo all you have given us. Help us to think of the many things and experinces of our lives that come from you. Help us to see others as gifts. Help us to share in the joy of life with you and each other! Amen.

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

Sermon: Acceptance: Generosity of love

Song: I came to Jesus as I was
Come receive his joy HWB#397
Beauty for borkeness SS#115

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: Jesus has done so much for me

Benediction:

L: Go in peace

P: As we have heard this morning, “Going in Peace” means going into the world as a whole person, forgiven, smothered in God’s grace, ready to show generosity because of our gratitude, and ready to be good stewards of God’s grace toward others.

L: Go in peace

Song: Lord of the dance