

## **Willow Springs Worship recorded for August 9, 2020**

### **Call to Worship:**

L: We bring our hearts and minds before you O God.

P: Form us into to what you want us to be.

L: We think of our past

P: a history where we have discovered you.

L: Plant a seed of faith from our past

P: that it might grow into tree with new purpose.

### **Opening Prayer:**

God of small seeds and mighty plants, you take our meager lives and with your love cause them to produce acts of loving kindness for you in this world. You hear our cries and find us when we are lost and wandering in fear. You bring us home with you so that we may be made whole, rejoicing in your goodness. Help us to joyfully serve you all our days, knowing that you are always watching over us. Prepare our hearts to receive your word and our spirits to respond in eagerness to serve you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

### **Songs:** Was it a morning like this

I owe the Lord a morning song

### **Prayer of Confession**

Lord Jesus Christ,

we remember with gratitude the people

who generously sowed the seeds of faith in our lives.

[Pause for a time of reflection]

Above all. we recognize how you have blessed our lives  
with the gift of the Holy Spirit  
so that our faith has miraculously and mysteriously grown.

We confess the times we fail to involve ourselves  
in planting any seeds of faith in the lives of others;  
the times when our personal agendas become more important than yours;  
the times when we have denied others the opportunity to expand their faith  
through our lack of interest or involvement;  
the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world  
that we forget what you have said and done and promised.

Lord Jesus Christ, we know that when we become disconnected from you,  
our lives becomes parched and unfruitful and our faith becomes stunted and dry.  
Bless and renew our lives, we pray,  
so that we remain connected to you at all times and in all places,  
strengthening our faith to expand and, growing strongly and vigorously,  
to bear the fruit of your mercy,  
your love,  
your undying life.  
Amen.

**Songs:** Here in this place  
Praise the One

**Children's time:** Today we think about time. One symbol of time is the hour glass. It's a glass unit with sand in it. It's like a tube that has a pinch in the middle. The sand moves through the pinch at a certain rate to mark time. In the hour glass is the sand in the top portion. WE look at that sand - it's the future. Sand that will come to us. There is the pile of sand on the bottom of the hour glass. That sand has already gone through the pinch from the top. That pile is our past. At the narrow part of the glass the sand moves along. Here is the present moment. Sand or time moves in the moments of our time. The present. Today what has your past taught you? Lot's of things to do and other things to avoid. What does the past teach us about God? God is faithful. In all those grains of sand, God has cared. In God's faithfulness Jesus came to show us we can trust the love and truth of God! In our past with God being faithful to us, we grow faith. Faith is a trust. When we walk up to a chair, we can sit right in it. From our past we know the chair is trust worthy. We have faith from that past. We look to God and know Jesus is totally faithful and we have faith. The grains of sand provide a formation to live.

Pray: Lord thanks for you faithfulness every morning, every day, every moment! Help us to think of your presence and help. Help us to have a simple trust, a faith in you now and forever as the sand moves through time. Thanks for life in you! In Jesus Name, Amen.

**Scripture:**

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Luke 13:18-19

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

18 Then Jesus asked, “What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? 19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

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

**Sermon:** Hour Glass - The Past, Foundation of Faith

**Song:** Here I am Lord

**Sharing/Pastoral prayer**

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

Pandemic. Economy. “Back to School” time, Striving for a just society. Witnessing a disaster on the news in Lebanon. 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 We enter into the last month of our fiscal year. Thanks for your generosity.

**Song:** Jesus has done so much for me

**Benediction:** Jesus the sower of mustard seeds  
send us on this journey to reveal your kingdom in all its surprising ways.

Thanks for the foundation of faith!  
Help us to be seeds of hope,  
that from small things large trees grow,  
birds find shelter and people are drawn to you.

Give us love in the moment.  
Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

We journey in peace.  
Amen.