

Willow Springs Worship September 13, 2020

Call to Worship (Isaiah 49:13):

L: Shout for joy, you heavens;

P: Rejoice, you earth;

L: Burst into song, you mountains!

P: For the Lord comforts his people

ALL: And will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

Prayer

God of love, you have loved the world, so much that you sent your Son to us. You sent your anointed to us not to condemn the world but to save the world. You sent Christ to us so we might walk in the light, so we might be whole. You sent Jesus, your son, to us to show us the way of life. You are a gift of love. Call us away from the ways of the world that call for quick fixes, for short attention spans, and instead call us into Your vision of hope for the journey. Amen.

Song

Prayer of Confession God of mercy and patience, be with us this day as we celebrate the gift of life in you. Your love is great. Remind us again that our lives are meant to be gifts to others, for healing, hope, comfort, peace and love. Forgive us when we get so caught up in the details of living and when we become so overwhelmed by our current pandemic or economic woes that we neglect to help others. Enlighten us again with your spirit and your words of healing love. Caring and sharing are the marks of following you, Our Lord. Heal and forgive us. Give us hearts for joyful caring and sharing; for it is in Jesus' name, we offer this prayer. AMEN.

Words of Assurance:

Let God's love and mercy wash over you as the summer rains wash over the earth, bringing promise of new life and hope. Be at peace. AMEN.

Song

Children's time

Scripture: Isaiah 49:8-13, Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Peter 4:7-11

Sermon: The Gift: a Vision, a Way to Live

Song

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

Offering/song

Benediction: As God has shared the best gift with you, now you are challenged to go forth to share your life blessings with others. May the peace and love of God go with you always. AMEN.

Isaiah 49:8-13 This is what the LORD says: "In the time of my favour I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!' "They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill. They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water.

I will turn all my mountains into roads, and my highways will be raised up. See, they will come from afar—some from the north, some from the west, some from the region of Aswan."

Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

Ephesians 2:1-10 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1 Peter 4: 7-11 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Announcements:

Willow Springs Annual Meeting, Wednesday, September 23, 7:00 via Zoom.

Sharing through Our Table - since Our Table is not meeting with free meals on Monday evenings, the organization is collecting money to **give Sullivan's Grocery store gift cards** to participants. Please write your check to Willow Springs and put Our Table in the memo. Place your gift in the offering, mail or get it to Carol, Eldon or Cal by September 23.

MCC School Kits: Consider putting together a **school kit** or purchasing materials to add to a school kit to be shared in different places around the world.