

Willow Springs Worship recorded for September 6, 2020

Prelude: The heavens are telling the glory of God

Call to Worship:

L: Come, take your rest this Labor Day Weekend.

P: Lord, free us from the stresses we have endured this week.

L: Come, put your minds at ease.

P: Lord, ease the burdens and frustrations of our lives.

L: Come. For through worship, the dwelling of the Lord is formed.

It is here that you will find peace.

P: Praise and thanks be to God for giving us rest. AMEN.

Opening Prayer: Lord, we have come to you this day bringing all that we have,
our lives, our labor,
our hopes and dreams,
our fears and sorrows.

We place these before you in faith and hope, knowing that no matter what has happened you are with us and blessing us in love.

Unless you work, our work is nothing.

Open our hearts to receive your words and your spirit, that we may find healing and comfort.

Open our lives to the wondrous possibilities for service and joy that you offer to us. Ease our minds and spirits that we may hear the words of encouragement and peace this day. AMEN.

Songs: Healer of our every ills HWB#337

Longing for light SJ#61

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we come before you this day as those who are often afraid to confess all the many ways in which we have disappointed and betrayed You. You offer a partnership for life. You have given us continual opportunities to serve and love others, but we have withdrawn into lives of our own efforts in selfishness and greed.

We stick to our own work.

We have turned our backs on others in need.

We have denied the gifts you have given us.

Where can we turn now that we have run from you?

Your voice calls to us to come home, to come to you unafraid, to receive forgiveness and healing.

Open our hearts this day to receive your rest and these magnificent blessings. Help us understand the many ways in which you love us, and help us share that love with all those whom we meet.

For we ask this in the name of Jesus Our Lord and Friend.

Words of Assurance

Even though we have turned away from God, yet God is faithful to us. We are beloved of God and recipients of God's love and blessings. We turn and follow Jesus. Rejoice, children of God! For God's mercies are ever before us. AMEN.

Songs: Lord, we have come to the lake shore HWB#229

Who has known the mind of Jesus SJ#58

Children's time: Do you wake up and think about what you will do that day? Some days I wake

and think, “What will I get done today?” Lots of time if I want to get something doesn’t that takes work. Do you like to work? I wonder what God thinks about work? I know God created, that a lot of work. Then, what did God do after the work? God rested. We need to work but we need to remember to rest. And one other important thing about work is that everything I work with came from God. That helps me remember that God is with me in my work. We need to remember that The Lord becomes our partner in what our lives are all about. In Psalm 127 we hear, “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves.” I need to join in on God’s building life around me and in me. Then I wake in the morning knowing my work and rest are with God. Then, we can work or rest in the day and sleep at night ready for a new day.

Let’s pray: Thanks Lord for your work to make creation. Thanks that you put us here to help work with you for life on the earth to stay amazing. Thanks for times of labor and rest in the days we have. Help us to remember your hope for us to help in building life with our work and energy. Thanks for the partnership with you in your Living Spirit! Amen.

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-4, Psalm 127:1,2 II Thess. 3:6-13

Genesis 11:1-4 The Tower of Babel

11 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

3 They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

Psalm 127 A song of ascents. Of Solomon.

1 Unless the Lord builds the house,
the builders labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the guards stand watch in vain.
2 In vain you rise early
and stay up late,
toiling for food to eat—
for he grants sleep to those he loves.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Warning Against Idleness

6 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. 9 We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”

11 We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. 12 Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food

they eat. 13 And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

Sermon: The Lord Builds - Our Labor and Rest

Songs: Love the Lord Your God SS#55
God has chosen me SS#114

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

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

Normal challenges and other disappointments in life.
Our desire to be gathered as a worshiping community.

Striving for a just society. 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.**
- + **Schools systems with leaders, teachers and students.**
- +**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: You are the salt of the world HWB#226

Benediction:

We walk with the Lord on this journey of life.
Our journey is not simply to sit and be lazy.
Our journey is to not work as much as we can to build our own tower.
The Lord wants to work in us and through us.
As the Lord works, we join the purposes of God to work,
to build life.
Build the Kingdom in rest and peace!

Amen!

Postlude: Will you come and follow me SS#39