

Willow Springs Worship October 11, 2020

Focus: Though we often expect God's wrath for our mistakes, God has woven grace into the fabric of the universe. Creation exemplifies grace in processes of growth, decay, and growth again. Compost exemplifies grace as discarded, unwanted scraps are transformed into rich fertilizer.

Call to Worship:

Leader: We come together to proclaim Our hope in God's reign, and to praise God for the gifts of life.

People: We come knowing the world belongs to God—the Earth and all its people.

L: God does not intend for people to suffer, whether near at home or in far away countries.

P: When God's love and our faith come together, God's will for the abundant life for all humanity, and our lives of faithful service will join hands.

L: We come today as one to hear and experience the call of God.

P: We come together to heed a jubilee call.

Song

Prayer of Confession: The earth is yours, O God. You created its riches—the water, the land, the minerals, the microbes—sufficient resources for all your children's needs. We confess that we are not good stewards of that which you have placed in our care. Too often we think of ourselves first and only ourselves.

Creator God, forgive us, We are short-sighted and selfish with your gifts.

We squander your gifts...

We hoard your gifts...

We share as little as we can...

We take as much as we can.

Show us your way, O Lord, and help us to bring your good news to those who are poor, and your year of release to those who are in bondage.

Teach us to respond to your Good News and equip us to turn your love into compassionate action.

Amen.

Words of Assurance: God sends the Spirit to bind up our broken hearts, proclaim freedom from our captivity, release from our bondage and comfort in the struggle. Jesus forgives, renews and sets us free to serve. Live in the new day of God's reign!

Song

Children's time

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 11

Sermon: *Grace Like Compost*

Song

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

Offering/song

Announcements

Benediction: May God's grace transform the scraps of our nation and our planet into rich soil for growing new patterns of behavior.

May you journey with the wisdom of the Spirit as the future unfolds.

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Announcements: Special thanks to **Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler for preaching today.** Karla is the Executive Director of Hungry World Farm.

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.

Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction: Cal plans to take in week four this week through Zoom. Pray for learning and growth for all involved.

Hungry World Farm Outdoor Open House - October 17, 2 to 4 pm.

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Isaiah 61:1-4 The Year of the Lord's Favor
The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord
for the display of his splendor.
They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.

For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.