

Willow Springs Worship
November 1, 2020

Call to Worship

L: Come and rejoice in God!

P: Sing praise to God who continually blesses our lives!

L: In the midst of troubles and stress, God is near, offering compassion.

P: Our hope is in the Lord and we find peace.

L: Let all the people praise God.

P: Hallelujah! AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we have come to gather from a world of confusion, demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them from you. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to turn to your love. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Song

Prayer of Confession:

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the events and movements of our day, social media and the news. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep. The cries of those in need around the world abound and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find simple ways in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives.

You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to turn to you in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our energy and gifts for the common good, and that in serving, we find great and abundant joy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

The messenger has been sent to you, proclaiming that there is One who is Coming who will heal and lead you. Know that this is a great gift from God, who has always and will always love you. Turn your lives to Jesus and find a foundation of peace.

Song

Children's time

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-20, Luke 3:7-20

Sermon: Foundation for Life: Peace, the Promise of Turning to God

Song

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

Offering our lives/song

Announcements

Benediction - (Numbers 6:24-26 - New International Reader's Version)

Turn to the Lord.

Find peace.

Follow Jesus.

May the Lord bless you
and take good care of you.

May the Lord smile on you
and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look on you with favor
and give you peace.

Amen!

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Announcements:

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Zephaniah 3:14-20 New International Version

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy.

The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.

On that day they will say to Jerusalem,

“Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.”
“I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed
festivals,
which is a burden and reproach for you.
At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you.
I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles.
I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered
shame.
At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home.
I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth
when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,” says the Lord.

Luke 3:7-20

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of
vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in
keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have
Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can
raise up children for Abraham. 9 The ax is already at the root of the trees,
and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and
thrown into the fire.”

10 “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

11 John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one
who has none,
and anyone who has food should do the same.”

12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what
should we do?”

13 “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

14 Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be
content with your pay.”

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their
hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. 16 John answered them all,
“I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come,
the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear
his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up
the chaff with unquenchable fire.” 18 And with many other words John
exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

19 But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, 20 Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.