

Willow Springs Worship January 31, 2021

Call to Worship

L: God visits the earth with abundance!

P: Praise be to God for the blessings which enrich our lives.

L: Make us stewards of your creation, sharing the abundance!

P: Teach us to share and help others.

L: We praise you for the gifts and ask your guidance in our generosity.

P: Enter our hearts and fill us with the joy of sharing

for we ask these things in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Opening Prayer

Song

Prayer of Confession:

Forgiving and Loving God, we love in your gift of love. Be with each one of us today. Remind us, as in our abundance, that there are many people who go to bed hungry and cold, who thirst for fresh water around this earth. Open our eyes to see those people who would be very grateful for a day-old crust of bread or some water that is not stagnant. As we fill ourselves to overflowing, help us to remember those dear ones around the world. Forgive us, O God. Forgive us as a nation. Forgive us as a church. Forgive each one of us when we think of ourselves first, proclaiming there is nothing we can do about these problems. God soften our hearts and our spirits to reach out to all in trouble anywhere, for we ask this in the precious name of our Savior, Jesus. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

By God's mercy and grace we have been rescued from ourselves and the systems of this world. In generosity, we are called to be those who bring help and hope to this aching world. AMEN.

Song

Children's time

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Sermon: Boring Bible Passages?!?!

By Lyle Miller

Song

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

Offering our lives/song

Announcements - Plan for discussion after worship

Benediction - Having been blessed with so many gifts, go into the world joyfully serving God by helping others in need. Continue in peace. Amen.

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2 Corinthians 9:6-15 The Message

⁶⁻⁷ Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.

⁸⁻¹¹ God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done.

As one psalmist puts it,

He throws caution to the winds,

giving to the needy in reckless abandon.

His right-living, right-giving ways

never run out, never wear out.

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

¹²⁻¹⁵ Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God. This relief offering is a prod to live at your very best, showing your gratitude to God by being openly obedient to the plain meaning of the Message of Christ. You show your gratitude through your generous offerings to your needy brothers and sisters, and really toward everyone. Meanwhile, moved by the extravagance of God in your lives, they'll respond by praying for you in passionate intercession for whatever you need. Thank God for this gift, his gift. No language can praise it enough!