

Willow Springs Sunday Worship 9:30 am, *Lent 2 - March 13, 2022*

From fear to compassion

Simulcast on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4743450556>

Meeting ID: 474 345 0556 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Hosted by Elaine Good

Focus

As we seek God's way, we move from a place where fear dictates our actions to a space where our response to others is guided by compassion.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: Together we seek the way of God.

**People: As disappointment oppresses
and violence threatens,**

Leader: we come to ask: Whom shall we fear?

**People: We come to be reminded of God's power
and to be led more deeply into God's love.**

Leader: We long to gather under the wings of Christ, as a mother hen,

All: and to learn the holy way of compassion.

Prayer

Leader: Your ways, O God, are higher than our ways.

People: Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

Leader: We seek God's ways. (*Snip the cords that bind one box.*)

All: Lord, move us from our ways of clinging to security to your ways of generous living.

Songs

Lenten prayer of confession (Isaiah 55 adapted)

Leader: Holy One,
we seek you while you may be found.

People: We call upon you while you are near.

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God,
for our thoughts are not your thoughts
and our ways are not your ways.

People: Forgive us for living with fear. Help us live out compassion.

Leader: As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey,
let us see your way more clearly

All: and follow your way more faithfully.

Prayer

God, you are our light and our salvation. You are the stronghold of our life; of whom shall we be afraid? We seek a home in you. We seek a heart of curiosity. We seek an eye for beauty. Grounded in you, sheltered by your wings, you reveal a world unfolding in layers of love. Though we will suffer in the journey before us, our consent to your way of compassion makes us strong. Continue to gather and release, O God, as we peck out our path. Amen.

Song

Children's time

Scripture Genesis 15:1-12; 17-18, Luke 13:31-35

Sermon "I Must Press On"

Reflection question - Where are you standing at this moment? Not yet under Jesus' "wings," or ready to step out from there without fear?

Songs

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

After prayer times "*Lord, in your mercy*" respond with "*hear our prayer.*"

Offering Song

Announcements – Elders' Meeting, March 16, 7:30

Sending From this time and place into whatever awaits, may you follow God's way of compassion. May the embrace of Jesus ease your fears and encourage you to care for others. As you go, know that our God of the wilderness remains with you on the way.

Online giving option: <https://tinyurl.com/donateWSMC>

Jesus' Sorrow for Jerusalem

31 At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

32 He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' 33 In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!"

34 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. 35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

In 2021 Willow Springs had the "Dare to Serve" event via Zoom to raise money for MCC through the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale. This year we are planning a similar but simplified event: "Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale Offerings" on Friday, March 25.

In this year's event one might offer goods (such as baked goods or hand crafted items), or services (e.g. help with electrical wiring); these items will be auctioned. One can also offer to do something on our Zoom get-together (perhaps read a children's book or play a musical instrument) and people can offer monetary donations in response to the performance.

Think about what you have to offer. Consider asking others to offer something you might like to bid on or see.

Please inform Ellen (asledz5@gmail.com, 815-915-7376 text, 815-646-4809 voice, or even in person) of what you would like to offer by Wednesday, March 23. Let's have one more Zoom party - Friday, March 25 at 7:00!

Please note that the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale will again have only an online auction March 12 - 19. Go to <https://ilreliefsale.org/sale/> for more