

Willow Springs Sunday Worship Dec. 25, 2022 9:30 am

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

Christmas Day: RESTORATION IS NEAR - Sing for joy: Your God reigns

Focus - The long-anticipated restoration is here and now. The same Holy Spirit that birthed Jesus is available to us. This is how a small baby can be good news for today's world.

Welcome and Call to worship – Melissa Kimani

Call to worship

Leader: Sing and shout; how great is our God!

The heavens praise your name; the earth proclaims your glory!

People: How beautiful are the feet on the mountain of those who bring good news.

Leader: Great is your peace, and great are your promises.

People: Your good news brings comfort to my soul. In my heart a new song cries out.

Leader: Sing hallelujah!

All: Our God reigns!

Candle-lighting liturgy

Leader: Jesus is born! We light the Christ candle as a sign of our hope, love, joy and peace. – Johnny Kimani

All: Bring your restoration to your people, we pray.

Songs - Phil Kaufmann

Children's time – Beth Gerig

Focus: The shepherd was one of the first people to hear the good news and meet Jesus.

Scripture: Isaiah 40:27-31, Luke 2:1-20 - Hayden and Heidi Goerzen

Sermon: *The Gift - As the Eagle Soars*

Songs

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

After prayer times “Lord, in your mercy” respond with “hear our prayer.”

Offering Song

Announcements We have an **opportunity to serve** the HS and Jr High groups from Living Water Community Church, Chicago, in travel to Menno Haven's Winter Retreats, January 13-15 and 20-22. Could you offer to give them a ride from the Princeton Amtrak to MH Friday evening or Sunday Noon? Please contact Cal.

This quarter we highlight the **ministries of MCC** with their impact around the world. So far, Freeport Mennonite Church is short on donations covering the meat by \$10,000. Anyone who wants to donate can write "Meat Canning" on the memo of a check.

Do you or someone you know love touching the soil? Are you longing to help restore the health of our planet? **Hungry World Farm has opportunities for 3-4 farm interns** to join us for this coming season. Interns will learn about regenerative agriculture--soil health, annual and perennial crop systems, intensive grazing and various farming practices through working the soil, tending animals, field trips, and books. Find details on our website: <https://www.hungryworldfarm.com/opportunities#interns> Emily H, a former HWF intern says, "I learned so much about the diverse movement called regenerative agriculture. It brought me joy to contribute to the living landscape at Hungry World Farm." Please help us spread the word and share this announcement with someone you think could be interested!

CALENDAR

December 31 New Year's Eve Candle Light Communion, 7:30

January 7/8 Young Adult Retreat at Willow Springs.

Sending - Carol Zehr Today we sing for Christmas joy!
May you go in celebration, sharing the good news that God has come.

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

Masks are encouraged but no longer required in our building. If you have Covid-like symptoms, please stay home and join by Zoom. Thank you for your consideration of others.

Isaiah 40:27-31

²⁷ Why do you complain, Jacob?

Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸ Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Luke 2:1-20 The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary,

who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.

She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.