

Willow Springs Sunday Worship Jan. 1, 2023. 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 Sunday: *RESTORATION IS NEAR* - He comes to us in all our distress

Focus - We live in the in-between: Christ has brought restoration, and the world still cries out to be restored.

These two truths do not cancel each other out but coexist.

Welcome and Call to worship – Carol Zehr

Call to worship

Leader: In crimson clothing you came,  
bringing the day of vengeance, the year of redemption.

People: **God has not forgotten you, O Jerusalem.**

Leader: O Lord, your compassion and kindness are for us, even in our distress.

People: **Even in suffering we remember your love.**

Leader: You have become fully human; you call us brothers and sisters.

You, Lord, will gather your people again  
for the day of redemption.

All: *Let our repentance give you glory.*

*Let our praises give you joy, until you come again.*

Songs - Phil Kaufmann

Children's time – Beth Gerig

Focus: Things did not automatically get better because the Messiah had come, and shepherd Rachel continues to struggle with that.

Scripture: Luke 2:11-12, 21-35

Sermon: Simeon's Thanks In Fulfillment

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**

**January 4 Church Board Meeting 7:30 via zoom.**

**January 7/8** Young Adult Retreat at Willow Springs.

Sending - Even for this has Christ come. May you go out into this suffering world with the comfort that Christ is present with us.

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.

# **Luke 2**

<sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>21</sup> On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

## **Jesus Presented in the Temple**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."