

Willow Springs Sunday Worship March 19, 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

We join together this Lenten Season as created in the image of God, shaped by Jesus:  
*Jesus' Regeneration – Authentically Human.* Today's theme - ***Called to the light***

**Welcome and Call to worship** – Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler

*(based on Psalm 23)*

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd.

**People: We shall not want.**

Leader: God makes us lie down in green pastures.

**People: We shall not want.**

Leader: God leads us beside quiet waters.

**People: We shall not want.**

**All: *Restore us through your Holy Spirit, the love of Jesus Christ, and the comfort of your presence.***

**Songs** - Leah Landis, Ellen Davis Zehr

### **Confession**

Leader: Lord, we long for light, but all is darkness, and we walk in deep shadows.

We have driven back justice.

Truth has stumbled in the streets,  
and thick darkness is over the people.

We confess our sinful deeds.

We confess to the Lord . . .

*(silent prayer)*

Leader: As everything exposed to the light becomes visible,  
we walk from darkness into light.

**All: *Open our eyes, Jesus,  
that our lives may radiate your glory. Amen.***

### **Song of Praise**

**Children's time** – Connie Krabill

**Scripture:** John 9:1-5, 39-41; Ephesians 5:8-14

**Sermon:** *Jesus - Light in the Dark*

**Songs** VT715 - Longing for light

VT793 - We are marching

### **Sharing/Pastoral prayer**

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

### **Testimony** - Guiding questions:

You once lived in darkness, so to speak, and knew no direction in your life. Please share with us what that was like for you.

It is said that an encounter with Jesus brings light into the soul. Could you tell us some of the ways that Jesus opened your eyes to help you find your future?

How do you now seek God's guidance in everyday situations?

## Offering Song

### Announcements:

The **worship visual** represents a desert journey of lent with this morning's color - red pointing us to testing/temptation, Orange for new birth (sunrise), blue for water. TODAY - yellow for light.

This quarter we highlight the **ministries of MCC** with their impact around the world. Current MCCProject: Relief kits provide valuable supplies to families whose lives have been disrupted by war or disaster.

**WiderStand** AntiRacism Training - The training consists of at home, on-line, video sessions. Intertwined in the sessions will be group conversation and processing. Pray for our growth closer to the Kingdom in the love and truth of Jesus. Go through: *Introduction and Developing A Common Vocabulary: Race, Bias, Privilege*. Please login and engage with the training, moving to our discussion time on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**The Land Is Not Empty** HWF Book Conversation - March 28, April 11 and 25, from 7 to 8 p.m.

**Hungry World Farm Spring Work and Play Day:** April 1, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All ages are invited to join in caring for creation and celebrating signs of spring at Hungry World Farm's Spring Work and Play Day. Come for part of the day, or for the whole time. A simple and nourishing farm-made lunch of soup and bread will be provided at noon. For details and to register, go to *Events* on our website: <https://www.hungryworldfarm.com/events/spring-work-play-day-2023>.

**Hungry World Farm** Eat local, grow local! Garden planning for a long, local harvest: Saturday, April 22, 1-3 p.m.

Growing your own food is a great way to invest in your own health and the health of our planet! The theme for Earth Day 2023 is "Invest In Our Planet." All ages are welcome! For more details and to register, go to *Events* on the Hungry World Farm website: <https://www.hungryworldfarm.com/events/eat-local-grow-local-garden-planning-for-a-long-local-harvest>.

**Spring Meeting of the Illinois Mennonite Historical & Genealogical Society:** Saturday April 22 at 10 a.m. at the Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center near Metamora. Luke Fischer of Roanoke will give a presentation on *The Origins and History of the Apostolic Christian Church*, a cousin Anabaptist church. Everyone is welcome. A fellowship lunch will follow.

### CALENDAR

March 26 - Anti-Racism discussion – 11:15 am.

April 2 - Anti-Racism discussion.

April 6 - Maundy Thursday Supper/Communion/Footwashing

April 9 - Easter!

June 6 and 7 - Willow Springs Kids Day Camp.

**Sending** – Leader: Go forth and shine, for the Light has come,  
**People: and the glory of the Lord rises upon us.**

Leader: Surely goodness and love will follow us all the days of our lives,

**All: and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

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.

Mission Vision: Willow Springs Mennonite Church is a thriving Anabaptist community of believers saved by grace who love and desire to follow Jesus Christ.

We celebrate life together through joyful worship, faithful study, intentional sharing of the Gospel, and compassionate caring and service to others.

Values: How will we be thinking and acting? Prayerfully, Faithfully, Intentionally, Compassionately, Enthusiastically and joyfully!