

**Subject:** Willow Springs Sunday Worship March 5, 2023. 9:30 am  
**From:** "wsmenno@juno.com" <wsmenno@juno.com>  
**Date:** 3/4/2023, 5:02 PM  
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**Willow Springs Sunday Worship March 5, 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 - **“Shaped by New Birth”**

**Welcome and Call to worship – Ellen Davis Zehr**

*(based on Psalm 121)*

**Leader:** Lift your eyes to the hills—where does your help come from?

**People:** **Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

**All:** *Let us worship our God, who watches over us now and always.*

**Songs - Phil Kaufmann**

**Confession**

**Leader:** Lord, we need new birth.

Paralyzed by doubts, dead in our stubbornness and guilt,  
walking in blindness, our hearts are hardened to your love.  
We confess to the Lord . . .

*(silent prayer)*

**Leader:** Jesus, you have come to put the world right,  
to give life to the dead,  
and to call into existence a people born from above.

**All:** *Break in by your creating Spirit.*

*Send forth your fresh wind.*

*And open the way to real life, eternal life. Amen.*

**Song of Praise**

**Children's time – Anna Zehr**

**Scripture:** Genesis 12:1-4, John 3:1-17

**Sermon:** *Abram, Sari, Nicodemus - New Partnership, New Perspective*

+Ask for life to be stirred for the presence and perspective of Jesus and the Kingdom.

+Reflect on a new action or way of thinking or being that God might be calling me to.

+Write down how you'd like to commit yourself to respond to this invitation from God.

**Songs**

**Testimony - Guiding questions:**

When someone encounters Jesus, they will not be the same person. Briefly share with the congregation how this transformation happened to you. Why did your encounter with Jesus make such a dramatic difference in your life?

Have you ever doubted whether your new birth in Christ is real? Why or why not?

As a reborn person, in what way has your worldview been transformed in relation to such things as wealth, success, family, and so forth?

### **Sharing/Pastoral prayer**

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

### **Offering Song**

#### **Announcements:**

The worship visual represents a desert journey of lent with this morning’s color - red pointing us to testing/temptation. TODAY - Orange for new birth (sunrise).

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. Also, Collect change in your “Little School Kit” bags for a special offering NEXT SUNDAY, March 12.

**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.

Please login and engage with the training, moving to our discussion time on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

*The Land Is Not Empty: Following Jesus In Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery* by Sarah Augustine

Join Hungry World Farm staff in reading, reflecting, and inviting transformation of our relationships with the land, with our neighbors, with ourselves, and with God. Author Sarah Augustine is a Pueblo (Tewa) woman with a profound faith and passion for justice, Jesus-style. Through personal stories, historical accounts, and reflection on scripture, Sarah invites us to wrestle with the ongoing implications of 15th-century laws known as the Doctrine of Discovery. We will gather four times (in person in the HWF Learning Center, or via Zoom) to reflect on our reading: March 14, 28, April 11 and 25, from 7 to 8 p.m. Participants are encouraged to join in as many sessions as they are able. Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Executive Director of Hungry World Farm, will facilitate the gatherings. For more information and to register, go to [Book Study](#) on the Events page of the HWF website.

### **CALENDAR**

March 8 – Church Board Meeting.

March 11 – IMC Assembly, Cicero.

March 15 – MCC Relief Sale Pie Making.

March 18 – MCC Relief Sale, Bloomington.

March 19 - **Anti-Racism** discussion.

April 2 - **Anti-Racism** discussion.

April 6 - **Maundy Thursday** Supper/Communion/Footwashing

April 9 - **Easter!**

Sending –

*(based on Psalm 121)*

Leader: The Lord watch over you—

People: the Lord bless you and make you a blessing;

Leader: the sun will not harm you by day,

People: nor the moon by night.

*All: The Lord will bring you to life and carry you safely home.*

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!