

Willow Springs Sunday Worship, Sunday, April 23, 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

Easter Sunday #3 - We join together this Easter Season pondering the impact of Jesus dying and rising again.

Welcome and Call to worship – Warren Searles

Sing the Story #179

Songs - Steve Graham

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia! VT#341

This Joyful Eastertide VT#352

Children's time – Tarik Keshghi

Scripture: Matthew 27:50-53

Sermon: *Deep Spiritual Impact: Ripped Curtain, Split Rocks, Dead people Alive!*

Special Prayer

Songs I looked up and I saw my Lord...

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing VT#359

Thine is the Glory VT#355

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

Song

Announcements:

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. Next Discussion April 30.

CALENDAR

April 25 - *The Land Is Not Empty* HWF Book Conversation, 7 to 8 p.m. last session.

April 30 - Anti-Racism discussion – 11:15 am to 12:15.

June 6 and 7 - Willow Springs Kids Day Camp.

Sending – Sing the Story #183

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

Matthew 27:50-53 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open.

The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

Exodus 26:31+ "Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim worked into it by a skilled craftsman. Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the Testimony behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Put the atonement cover on the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy Place. Place the table outside the curtain on the north side of the tabernacle and put the lamp stand opposite it on the south side.

Hebrews 9:6+ When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order. When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

Romans 8:18+ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as children, the redemption of our bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Masks are optional in our building. If you have Covid-like, or other upper respiratory 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!