

Willow Springs Worship, Sunday, October 8, 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

Welcome and Call to worship – Carol Zehr

Call to worship – Voices Together #862 (VT).

Songs - Phil Kaufmann

50 Cent Offering/Song

Children's time – Pam Kaufmann

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:16-20, Luke 3:7-18

Sermon: Our God - Our Peace - Repentance and Partners in Peace

Songs

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

Song

Announcements:

We pass the globe banks as a reminder of all of us doing our part in world hunger. **The 50 Cent offering** will be shared with the Bureau County Food Pantry and Mennonite Central Committee.

Willow Springs Missional Giving emphasis for September is the **Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center**. If you would like to give to MH write a check to Willow Springs with the organization's name included on the Memo line. Thank you for supporting organizations connected to the Mennonite Church.

Thanks for all the anniversary cards celebrating our 40th Wedding Anniversary. It was special to get so many greetings and expressions of love! - Cal and Carol Zehr

This Fall the sermon's will explore **different characteristics or metaphors of God** such as Creator, Rock, Righteousness, Peace, Judge... This morning we reflect together about Our God, Our Peace.

CALENDAR

October 12 Cal preaches at Greenfield.

October 14 Hungry World Farm Harvest Festival, 2-5 PM (Rain date Oct, 21)

October 15 Sunday Hymn Sing, Metamora Mennonite Church, 4:00 PM. Followed by a soup supper.

October 22 Warren preaches. Cal and Carol to Colorado with Heidi and Hayden.

Nov. 27 Our Table, WS hosting

Sending – Voices Together (VT)#1038

Benediction Song – Seeds VT#777

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

Zephaniah 3:16-20

¹² But I will leave within you
the meek and humble.

The remnant of Israel
will trust in the name of the Lord.

¹³ They will do no wrong;
they will tell no lies.

A deceitful tongue
will not be found in their mouths.

They will eat and lie down
and no one will make them afraid.”

¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion;
shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord *has taken away* your punishment,
he has turned back your enemy.

The Lord, the King of Israel, *is with you*;
never again will you fear any harm.

¹⁶ On that day
they will say to Jerusalem,

“Do not fear, Zion;
do not let your hands hang limp.

¹⁷ The Lord your God *is with you*,
the Mighty Warrior *who saves*.
He will *take great delight* in you;
in his love he will *no longer rebuke you*,
but *will rejoice* over you with singing.”

¹⁸ “I *will remove* from you
all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals,
which is a burden and reproach for you.

¹⁹ At that time I *will deal*

with all who oppressed you.
I *will rescue* the lame;
I will gather the exiles.
I *will give* them praise and honor
in every land where they have suffered shame.
²⁰ At that time I *will gather* you;
at that time I *will bring* you home.
I will *give you* honor and praise
among all the peoples of the earth
when I *restore* your fortunes
before your very eyes,”
says the Lord.

Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.