

## **Willow Springs Worship, Sunday, January 7, 2024. 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

**How will we know . . . what we know?** Throughout Advent, we have pondered many questions. The questions don't end at Christmas. There is so much we still don't know. Yet there is so much that we do know. The Messiah has come, and we are witnesses to the difference that makes to the world.

**Welcome and Call to worship** – Esther Johnson Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**People: Lift up your eyes and look around; they gather and come to you.**

**High voices: You shall see and be radiant;**

**Low voices: your heart shall thrill and rejoice and proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

Leader: The mystery of Christ has been revealed by the Spirit. We have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise of Christ through the gospel.

**People: We know this through faith in Christ. May our lights shine!**

***All: Together we carry the light.***

**Songs** - Ellen Davis Zehr

**Children's time** – Anna Zehr

**Scriptures** – Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-18

**Sermon** - LIGHT and a Walk in Peace

**Songs**

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

**Song**

**Announcements:** Books to browse and add to your library - Please take a look at the books laid out on tables in the basement this Sunday and next. The books are free for you to take what you want and add them to your library or share them with someone else.

**Discernment for an Elder.** Please reflect and pray about who might be an Elder for Willow Springs. (See job description on the bulletin board.) Please submit names to the Willow Springs Discernment Committee by January 15. The discernment committee is Deb Borys, Laura Krabill Kheshgi, Warren Searles and Cal Zehr.

**Thanks for your ongoing offerings to Willow Springs!** General fund giving was strong in December (16K) but still leaves us 7K short YTD. Building fund has brought in 52,400 and after our 51,000 down payment we have a balance of \$12,800.

Would you be willing to **shuttle Living Waters Church** youth and sponsors from the Amtrak station to the MH Winter Retreats? Rides are needed from the 7:40 pm train on Friday, January 12 and 19 to MH. And back to the train station leaving MH at noon on Sunday, January 14 and 21. Please contact Cal if you can help.

## CALENDAR

January 21 Cal and Carol's reflections from Greece - 6:30 pm.

February 24/25 Willow Springs Retreat

**Sending:** Leader: Together we carry the light.

**People:** This is what we know.

Leader: Now go, basking in the glow of Christ! We have become God's heirs, members of one body, and sharers of the promise. Go in peace. Amen!

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

### **Isaiah 60:1-6** The Glory of Zion

60 "Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

2 See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.

3 Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 "Lift up your eyes and look about you:  
All assemble and come to you;  
your sons come from afar,  
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

5 Then you will look and be radiant,  
your heart will throb and swell with joy;  
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,  
to you the riches of the nations will come.

6 Herds of camels will cover your land,  
young camels of Midian and Ephah.  
And all from Sheba will come,  
bearing gold and incense  
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

### **Matthew 2:1-16** The Magi Visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.