

Willow Springs Worship, Lent #4,

Christ among Us, the Way of Mercy March 3, 2024. 9:30 am

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 Gale

Call to worship *based on Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22*

One: Give thanks to God, for God is good!

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: We may make careless choices and lose our way.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: We call out to God when we are in trouble.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: God rescues us from our anxieties and fears.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: God's word sets us free to walk in newness of life.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: God gathers us in, from the east and the west, from the north and the south.

All: For God's unfailing love, we give thanks to the Creator of all that is good.

Songs - Phil Kaufmann

Children's time – Marilyn Eigsti

Prayer of Confession

One: Merciful God, we forget that you are the light of the world.

Many: Forgive us for our short memories.

One: Remind us that you are rich in mercy

Many: when we wander away from you.

One: Loving God, convict us of your immense love

Many: that shines brightly on us.

All: Merciful God, light of the world, we come seeking new life in you.

Scriptures – Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21

Sermon- Needing Help, Welcomed Healing

Songs

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

Announcements:

RELIEF SALE PIES: Thursday, March 14, is our annual pie-making evening, with a goal of making 21 Dutch Apple Pies to be sold at the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale. We will start at 6:00, but come whenever you are able and join in the fun! We need people to roll out pie crusts, prepare apple slices, mix the filling and topping ingredients, label boxes, and to chat and make comments about each other's hair nets/coverings. Before 6:00 on Thursday **we need donations** of pie ingredients: pie crust dough, apples, sugar, brown sugar and butter. Contact Ellen (asledz5@gmail.com or 815-646-4809) to find out what is still needed that you might provide, or sign up today to bring certain ingredients.

On Wednesday, March 20 from 1:00 to 5:00 there will be a **work day at Willow Springs** to organize, clean up, and get rid of things. Come when it works for you to join us!

Join us Saturday, March 23, from 8-4 for Menno Haven's Spring Work Day! Come volunteer, meet others that love camp and enjoy a meal. For more information, see the flyer posted on the bulletin board or talk to Deb Borys or Cal. Please sign up at www.mennohaven.com/work-day. We'd love to see you here!

Willow Springs Missional Giving emphasis for March is Mennonite Central Committee. If you would like to give to **the MCC, make a notation on the memo line of a check**. Thank you all for supporting organizations connected to the Willow Springs.

Our church building desperately needs a new roof sooner than later. We plan for a new steel, hidden fastener roof to last for decades to come. Hopefully it will be installed in May! If you would like to the project, please mark your check – Building Fund.

CALENDAR

March 10 Cal & Carol's Greece Trip 6:30pm.

March 13 Elders Meeting

March 14 MCC Pie Making at WS, 6:00 pm

March 16 Illinois Relief Sale, 6:00 am

March 25 Our Table serving

March 24 Palm Sunday, Abuse Update

March 28 Maundy Thursday – **Please sign up to bring food to share**. Supper, communion, foot washing

March 31 Easter Sunday

Sending: Embrace Jesus, the light of the world. And know that you know that you are loved by God.

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

Numbers 21:4-9

4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

6 Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.

7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

8 The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

John 3:14-21 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.