

**Willow Springs Worship, Lent #5,  
Christ among Us, the New Covenant  
March 17, 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 – Heather Munn**

**Call to worship**

*based on Jeremiah 31:31–34; John 12:20–33*

One: “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. No longer will they teach their neighbors, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord!’ because they will all know me, from the least to the greatest.”

**Many: This new covenant is being offered to us.**

One: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

**Many: Death must come before resurrection.**

**A seed fallen to the soil and broken open can become life for many.**

*All: This new covenant is being offered to us: to lay down our life and follow.*

One: The life-giving ways of God placed within our minds and written on our hearts, where we are forgiven and our sins remembered no more, where we are God’s people and God is our God.

**Songs - Phil Kaufmann**

**Children’s time – Pam Kaufmann**

**Prayer of Confession** *adapted from Psalm 51*

One: O God, we gather before you, seeking your mercy. Hear us, we pray.

**Many: We confess that we sin against you.**

One: O God, wash us, make us clean, create in us a new spirit.

**Many: Stay close to us, restore us to your truth.**

*All: So that we can cry out with joy, cleansed in your abundant mercy.*

**Scriptures** – Jeremiah 31:23-34, John 12:20-33

**Sermon-** 8 Billion Kernels of Life

## Songs

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

## Announcements:

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](http://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 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 – 6:00pm.

March 31 Easter Sunday

April 7 Fionah Shares during worship

**Sending:** Go from here assured of the new covenant written on your hearts. God is our God. We are God’s people. Praise be to God of the covenant! Go in peace!

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

**Jeremiah 31:23-34** 23 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “When I bring them back from captivity, the people in the land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: ‘The LORD bless you, you prosperous city, you sacred mountain.’ 24 People will live together in Judah and all its towns—farmers and those who move about with their flocks. 25 I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.”

26 At this I awoke and looked around. My sleep had been pleasant to me.

27 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah with the offspring of people and of animals. 28 Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear

down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant,” declares the LORD. 29 “In those days people will no longer say, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’ 30 Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—their own teeth will be set on edge. 31 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.

33 *“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.*

34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

**John 12:20-33** 20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

23 Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

27 “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” 29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. 30 Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. 31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.