

Willow Springs Worship

December 8, 2024 9:30 a.m.

zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4743450556>

Meeting ID: 474 345 0556 Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Welcome and Call to Worship – Esther

Call to worship - based on Joel 2:12-13

Leader: Let us return to the Lord with all our hearts.

People: With our whole heart?

Leader: The hurting and hurtful part?

The bleeding and empty part?

People: The sewn-up-tight-don't-come-in heart part?

All: *With our whole heart, with all our hearts*

we come to worship the Lord God,

Leader: whose merciful compassion,
abundant patience, and faithful forgiving love
meet us in our need.

Candlelighting – Pete and Simon

Reader 1: We know God to be merciful and compassionate,

Reader 2: patient and full of faithful love,

Reader 1: ready to forgive.

Reader 2: Created in God's image, we yearn to reflect these same attributes in our hearts and lives.

Candlelighting of first two Advent candles

All: *We open our hearts to receive the Spirit, to become more like our loving God.*

Songs – Phil Kaufmann

Children's time – Marilyn Eigsti

Scriptures – Luke 2:1-20

Sermon – Richard Blackburn

Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth Peace: The Christmas Story in Art

Song – VT #249 Angels We Have Heard on High

Sharing and prayer – Pam Kaufmann

Song

Announcements

Sending Blessing

May you leave here renewed by the Holy Spirit,
blessed by God to be a blessing,
with an open heart for Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Sending Song

Calendar

Dec. 9-10 MCC Meat Canning in Freeport
December 11 Church Board meeting, 7:30 pm
December 15 Worship: Scripture and singing
December 22 Input by Karla Stoltfus Detweiler

Thank you to Richard Blackburn for bringing the message today!

This week's Advent theme is Opening Hearts: What Do We Ask For? God generously pours out the Holy Spirit on all who are humble and seek God's ways. By keeping our eyes on God as we journey, despite the turmoil around us, we open the door for the flowing movement of God's Spirit.

MCC Meat Canning at Freeport Mennonite Church continues this week on Dec. 9 and 10. Sign up to volunteer on FMC's [website](#).

For half an hour following the service, the Pine Room (near the library) will be open for sharing and prayer. All are welcome to participate.

January 21, 2025 will mark the 500th anniversary of the first re-baptism event that started the Anabaptist movement. There will be various commemoration events across the broader church. Jacob Landis is exploring having some events across the northern Illinois region. Please let Jacob or Anna Zehr know if you would like more information and have interest in helping plan events.

Willow Springs Missional Giving emphasis for Nov./Dec. is Mennonite Mission Network (MMN). You can give to MMN's general fund by writing a check to Willow Springs and **putting MMN on the memo line**. You can also give directly to the many different MMN projects and partners through their website, including the Center for Justice and Peace in Ivory Coast. Thank you for supporting organizations ministering to many.

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) volunteers are in western North Carolina responding to the impacts of Hurricane Helene with equipment to move debris, mud, and downed trees. MDS is accepting donations for the recovery effort.

Visit [MDS.org](https://www.mds.org) to see the latest volunteer needs or to make a donation. Check donations can be mailed to Mennonite Disaster Service, 583 Airport Road, Lititz, PA 17543. Write "Hurricane Helene" on the memo line. Continue to pray for the people impacted by storms and for the volunteers as they respond.

If pastoral care is needed, please contact an Elder: Dale Bachman, Ellen Davis-Zehr, Pam Kaufmann, or Elvin Krabill

Church Board: Dale Bachman, Ellen Davis-Zehr, Marilyn Eigsti, Pam Kaufmann, Phil Kaufmann (board chair), Tarik Kheshgi, Elvin Krabill, and Anna Zehr (as Worship Coordinator).

Anna Zehr is putting together the worship sheet and checking WillowSpringsMenno@gmail.com. Please send emails to be forwarded to the church to this address. If you are not receiving these emails, let Anna know.

Luke 2:1-20 The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2** (This was the first census that took place while [a](#) Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5** He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, **7** and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.