

Willow Springs Worship

December 15, 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 Isaiah 61:1

Leader: Merciful One: you anoint us for justice, you call us to you.

People: Your Spirit is poured out upon us.

Leader: Yours is the way of release and restoration.

People: May your love flow through us to heal the brokenhearted. May we declare your good news to bring hope to the poor.

Leader: You anoint us; we are yours.

People: We delight and rejoice in you.

Candlelighting – Carol and Eliana

Reader 1: Like a cloth with frayed edges, our world leaves people on the fringes;

Reader 2: Those who aren't accepted, who don't belong;

Reader 1: The poor, the brokenhearted, the prisoners, the oppressed.

Reader 2: But God's kingdom shows us another way.

(Candlelighting of three Advent candles)

All: Give us eyes to notice those on the fringes and arms to extend our boundaries, inviting all to become woven into our communities.

Songs – Phil Kaufmann

Children's time – Andy Krabill

Worship through Scripture Readings and Singing: *Seeking Shalom, We Cry Out to You*

Scripture – Isaiah 61:1–11, Luke 4:16–21 – Esther

Songs

Scripture – Isaiah 40:1-6a – Eliana

Songs

Scripture – Luke 17:20-25, Luke 18:15-17 – Carol

Songs

Scripture – Matthew 5:1-12 – Eliana

Songs

Sharing and prayer – Elvin Krabill

Song

Announcements

Sending Blessing – Based on Isaiah 61:10-11

In the hope of God,
What was once cast aside now grows back;
Those on the fringes are woven back into the fabric.
Go forth now, clothed in joy!

Sending Song

Calendar

December 16 Caroling at Our Table, 5:00 pm
December 22 Input by Karla Stoltfus Detweiler
December 29 Input by Sr. Glenna Czachor

Come sing Christmas carols for Our Table tomorrow, Monday, Dec. 16 at 5:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church in Princeton!

This week's Advent theme is Anointing for Justice: Who Belongs? God's vision of shalom and justice depicts a kingdom in which we radically realign ourselves with the marginalized and oppressed. Who needs to hear the invitation to belong in God's kingdom? Who needs to extend the invitation?

The frayed piece of cloth (burlap) next to the third candle represents those on the fringe of our communities. We are called to build communities that include those on the margins.

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