

Willow Springs Worship

December 29, 2024 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Worship – Esther

Call to worship - based on Psalm 131:1–3

Leader: As we worship today,
God, we ask this of you:

**People: Wipe pride from our hearts,
That we might truly love one
another.**

**Rinse conceit from our eyes
That we might see one another as
you see.**

Leader: We rest in your promises and wait for
you.

People: Calm and quiet, we trust in you.

Leader: Open our hearts,

**All: That we might let go of all that
separates us from you and one
another.**

Candlelighting – Marilyn and Eldon

Reader 1: Have you heard the news? Jesus,
the promised Messiah has come!

Reader 2: I have heard the Good News! God is
with us; Jesus is here!

(Candlelighting of the Christ candle)

**All: Let us shout it aloud for everyone to
hear! Come join us on this journey, as we
live out the Good News of Christ!**

Songs – Phil Kaufmann

Children's time – Connie Kauffman

Scriptures – Luke 1:39-45, Luke
1:46-55, Luke 2:21-38 (CEB)

Input – Worship through Scripture,
Readings, and Reflection

Songs

Sharing and prayer – Ellen Davis-Zehr

Song

Announcements

Sending Blessing

based on Luke 2:29–32

Go in peace,
All you servants of the Lord.
May you have eyes to see the salvation all
around you,
The salvation that God has prepared in the
sight of all peoples.
Go in peace.

Sending Song

Calendar

Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Service, 5:30 pm
Jan. 2	Elders meeting, 7:00 pm
Jan. 5	Worship: Sharing by WS people
Jan. 8	Church Board meeting, 7:30 pm
Jan. 10	Mennonite Women, 9:30 am
Jan. 12	Input by Maiga Muga

Together on the Journey: This week's Advent theme is **Keeping Promises: Who Sees It?** God is faithful in keeping promises on the journey, but unless we are keenly attuned, we may not recognize promises fulfilled. Even as we wait, we can be assured that God is active in working out the plan of restoring and healing. May we have the eyes to see God's active presence, and may we have a voice to share what we have seen. The mirror behind the visual reflects the items on the display table, as we focus on "having eyes to see" what God is doing in our midst, according to God's faithful promises.

The New Year's Eve Service is this Tuesday, starting at 5:30 pm. We will have a half an hour service, followed by a time of fellowship. Please bring snacks to share and games to play!

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.

Rob McKenzie is in hospice care at home. Peggy, Rob and James McKenzie's home address is:
23 W 235 Saint James Ct
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Volunteers are needed to help transport the Living Water youth between Princeton Amtrak and Menno Haven the weekends of Jan. 10-12 (9 people) and Jan. 17-19 (17 people). Transportation will be needed Friday evening and Sunday midday. Let Anna know if you are willing to help.

12/17 transitional pastor update: IMC minister Bryan Miller has heard back from a potential candidate who has said no to exploring this position. The next step is for Bryan to meet with our church leadership after New Year's.

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

Luke 1:39-45 Mary Visits Elizabeth (Rejoice, Dec. 22)

What blessings do the people in your life bring to you? What blessings do people bring to your community? Why not tell them what a blessing they are in your life? What stuck with you throughout this week from Karla's monologue?

Luke 1:46-55 Mary's Song (Rejoice, Dec. 20)

How is God's mercy being shown from generation to generation?

From the Anabaptist Community Bible: If Mary had sung this song today, would anyone listen? Did the Roman Empire feel threatened?

Luke 2:21-38 Simeon and Anna wait for the Messiah (Leader)

What have you noticed about God's faithful promises on your journey? What is the good news you have experienced? How has the faith of others had an impact on you?