

Willow Springs Worship

February 2, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Worship – Beth

based on Mark 1:14–15 and 2 Chronicles 7:14 (CEB)

Leader: Jesus came into Galilee announcing God’s good news, saying: “Now is the time.”

People: Now is the time?

Leader: “Now is the time! Here comes God’s kingdom! Change your hearts and lives.”

People: Change our hearts and lives?

Leader: Yes. Repent, and come clean with what you’ve done wrong and the sin that weighs you down.

People: And this is good news?

Leader: God said, “If my people who belong to me will humbly pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.”

All: Ah, this is good news! God’s kingdom is now. Now is the time to humbly pray, seek God’s face, and turn from our wicked ways. Then we will be forgiven and our land will be healed.

Prayer

Songs – Marilyn and Ellen

VT #25 Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

VT #30 Jesus Calls Us

VT #512 Let the Children Come

Children’s time – Beth Gerig

**Scriptures – Psalm 51:1-3, 10-12;
2 Corinthians 7:8-11 (CEB)**

Revelation 3:14–22 (CEB)

Leader: “Write this to the angel of the church in Laodicea:

Group A: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your works. You are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot.

Group B: So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I’m about to spit you out of my

mouth. After all, you say, ‘I’m rich, and I’ve grown wealthy, and I don’t need a thing.’ You don’t realize that you are miserable, pathetic, poor, blind, and naked.

Group A: My advice is that you buy gold from me that has been purified by fire so that you may be rich, and white clothing to wear so that your nakedness won’t be shamefully exposed, and ointment to put on your eyes so that you may see.

Group B: I correct and discipline those whom I love. So be earnest and change your hearts and lives.

Group A: I correct and discipline those whom I love. So be earnest and change your hearts and lives.

All: Look! I’m standing at the door and knocking. If any hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to be with them, and will have dinner with them, and they will have dinner with me. As for those who emerge victorious, I will allow them to sit with me on my throne, just as I emerged victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Leader: If you can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Pause for a brief time of silent reflection.

Reflection – Anna Zehr

Intergenerational Ritual: Repentance

Listen to VT #225 We Come as we write

Songs – Children dismissed for Sunday

School when we start singing

VT #141 Create in Me a Clean Heart

VT #628 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Sharing and prayer – Ellen Davis-Zehr

Song – VT #619 In the Rifted Rock I’m Resting

Announcements

Sending – VT #1062

Following worship, we will go outside to the fire to burn our pieces of paper.

Calendar

- Feb. 9 Input by Ashley Litwiller
- Feb. 12 Elders meeting
- Feb. 13 Church Board meeting, 7:30 pm
- Feb. 14 Mennonite Women, 9:30 am
- Feb. 16 Worship: Anabaptist Prayer Book

Willow Springs Missional Giving emphasis for February is Menno Haven. If you would like to give to the organization, write a check to Willow Springs and **make a notation on the memo line**. Thank you for supporting organizations ministering to many.

This Sunday's focus in the Anabaptism at 500 Commemoration is "Renewal through Repentance: Repenting of our failures and sins as Anabaptist families of faith." We fall short of who we're called to be as followers of Jesus. A phrase repeated often in early Anabaptist spiritual writings was "Bend the knees of my heart." Repenting and being sorry for our sins, witting or unwitting, should motivate a persistent curiosity about our failures to live what we profess, along with creative new ways to amend our lives in solidarity with the body of Christ. When we humble ourselves, seek God's face, and turn from our evil ways, the Holy Spirit ministers to us, and God forgives our sins, renews our communities, and heals our lands.

Volunteers are needed to staff a warming center in Princeton. It's called The Refuge and it is headed up by Arukah. Four people are needed to cover the night, two people at a time. Shifts are from 8:00 pm to 2:00 am and 2:00 am to 8:00 am. You can contact Tammi Lanxon or Steve and Boo Graham in order to sign up. Arukah is having difficulty finding enough volunteers to keep it staffed.

Hungry World Farm is in the process of renovating the lower apartment of the Alpha House and would be grateful for painting volunteers on **Feb 8th and Feb 15th, 9am-4pm**. The focus of both days will be painting ceilings, walls and trim. Let James Nicholson know if you plan on coming so he can plan accordingly. Thanks!

1/26 transitional pastor update: The Elders will meet with a potential transitional pastor candidate on February 12 via Zoom. If you have questions about this process, please talk with one of the Elders. Continue to pray that we find someone who is a good fit for the Willow Springs congregation.

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

Psalm 51:1-3, 10-12

51 Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!

Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!

2 Wash me completely clean of my guilt; purify me from my sin!

3 Because I know my wrongdoings, my sin is always right in front of me.

10 Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!

11 Please don't throw me out of your presence; please don't take your holy spirit away from me.

12 Return the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me with a willing spirit.

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

8 Even though my letter hurt you, I don't regret it. Well—I did regret it just a bit because I see that that letter made you sad, though only for a short time. 9 Now I'm glad—not because you were sad but because you were made sad enough to change your hearts and lives. You felt godly sadness so that no one was harmed by us in any way. 10 Godly sadness produces a changed heart and life that leads to salvation and leaves no regrets, but sorrow under the influence of the world produces death. 11 Look at what this very experience of godly sadness has produced in you: such enthusiasm, what a desire to clear yourselves of blame, such indignation, what fear, what purpose, such concern, what justice! In everything you have shown yourselves to be innocent in the matter.