

Welcome and Call to Worship

Call to worship – Esther Johnson

One: As we worship, Christ collides with our priorities.

Many: We gather and pause from the important busyness of our lives.

One: Jesus reveals the depth of God's purposes.

Many: Help us come to our senses by your Spirit.

All: For your reign, O God, help us celebrate being found as we worship you.

Songs – Phil Kaufmann

Confession and words of assurance

All: Loving and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you.

One: We have not loved you with all our thoughts, words, and actions.

Many: We have sinned through what we have chosen to do and what we have chosen to neglect.

One: We have not fully accepted your love for us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Many: We prioritize the wrong things and the wrong people.

All: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us bring our priorities in line with yours so we may better share your peace in your world, rejoicing in your name. Amen.

One: Now hear these words of assurance: God tells us that we are created in God's image. God created us for relationship with God and each other. In this, we know that God will never break our relationship. God's steadfast love endures forever.

Children's time – Tarik Khesghi

Scripture – Luke 15:1-32, Luke 19:37-40

Sermon – Anna Zehr

Colliding with Our Priorities, Christ Calls Us to Hospitality

Songs

VT #145 Touch the Earth Lightly

VT #146 Lord Jesus, Come and Overturn

Sharing and prayer – Pam Kaufmann

Song

Announcements

Sending – As we journey, Jesus collides with our priorities to live in the ways of God from the heart of God. Celebrate and expand the reign of God! Go, growing peace!

Sending Song – VT #568 Christ Has No Body Here but Ours

Calendar

March 30 Input by Sally Schreiner Youngquist

March 30 Hymn Sing at Roanoke MC 4:00 pm

April 6 Input by Lynette Miller

April 12 Reflections on Anabaptism at the IL Mennonite Heritage Center, 10:00 am

Thank you to Anna Zehr for bringing the message!

The theme for this third Sunday of Lent is Christ Collides with Our Priorities. Jesus challenges us to reconsider who the lost are and how we can help them. How might realigning our priorities with Christ shape our community of faith and our lives?

Lent-at-Home: Christ Collides, a free downloadable Lenten devotional from Mennonite Education Agency | [Download it for free.](#)

Willow Springs Missional Giving emphasis for March/April is Mennonite Central Committee ([MCC](#)). 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.

The Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center in Metamora has an upcoming meeting on April 12, starting at 10:00 am. Speaker John Sharp will be sharing Reflections on Anabaptism at 500. Meal to follow. All are welcome to attend!

3/6 update: Thank you for your thoughts and prayers as we have searched for a transitional pastor. Phil Waite will join us in mid-July, to assist as we discern what comes next for Willow Springs. Phil is currently the Pastoral Team Leader at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, IN. If you have questions about this process, please talk with one of the Elders.

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

Luke 15:1-32 (CEB)

Occasions for celebration

15 All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. **2** The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 Jesus told them this parable: **4** "Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn't he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? **5** And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. **6** When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost sheep.' **7** In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.

8 "Or what woman, if she owns ten silver coins and loses one of them, won't light a lamp and sweep the house, searching her home carefully until she finds it? **9** When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost coin.' **10** In the same way, I tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life."

11 Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. **12** The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. **13** Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

14 "When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. **15** He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. **16** He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. **17** When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! **18** I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **19** I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.'" **20** So he got up and went to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. **21** Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' **22** But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! **23** Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting **24** because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. **25** "Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. **26** He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. **27** The servant replied, 'Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.' **28** Then the older son was furious and didn't want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. **29** He answered his father, 'Look, I've served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you've never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. **30** But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.' **31** Then his father said, 'Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. **32** But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.'"

Luke 19:37-40 (NIV)

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"^[a]

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

40 "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."