

Willow Springs Worship

March 16, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Call to worship – Pam Kaufmann

One: Christ collides with our thoughts to condemn others.

Many: **Put them in their place.**

One: Who is more guilty of wrongdoing?

Many: **Do you condemn? Should I condemn?**

All: *For your reign, O God, transform us 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 are quick to pass judgment and to assume your authority to condemn others.**

All: *We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us shake free from our quickness to condemn 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 – Beth Gerig

Scripture – Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

Sermon – Grant Miller

Condemnation and Hope for All

Songs

VT #150 Gentle God, When We Are Driven

Sharing and prayer – Pam Kaufmann

Song

Sharing about AMBS – Grant Miller

Announcements

Sending – As we journey, Jesus collides with our thoughts to condemn others. Build life! Expand the reign of God! Go, growing peace!

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

Calendar

March 22 Seed & Plant Swap, Science Ridge MC
March 23 Input by Anna Zehr
March 30 Input by Sally Schreiner Youngquist
March 30 Hymn Sing at Roanoke MC 4:00 pm

Thank you to Grant Miller for bringing the message today!

The theme for this second Sunday of Lent is Christ Collides with Our Condemnation. Jesus challenges condemnation: Where does it come from? Who deserves it? How does it work? Is there any escape from it? This year's Lent resources were developed by leaders from IMC churches, including Cal Zehr and Phil Kaufmann.

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

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.

Many thanks to all who participated in making pies for the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale, whether by contributing ingredients, joining in the baking of the pies, or by transporting them to Bloomington. We made 22 pies, which were to be sold for \$16.00 each at the Relief Sale. Proceeds of the sale are given to Mennonite Central Committee and institutions in central Illinois that assist those who are food insecure.

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!

It is time to be thinking about registering your children for summer camp at Menno Haven! Brochures and Willow Springs Camperships have been distributed. Make sure to look over the various discounts offered. Have questions? Ask our Menno Haven Rep. Deb Borys.

3/6 transitional pastor 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. His bio was emailed out on 3/11. 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

The work installing the new church roof is finished and has been completely paid for! Thank you to all who gave towards this very large expense! Thank you to all the workers who completed this work! Praise the Lord!

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 (NIV)

Repent or Perish

13 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. **2** Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they

suffered this way? **3** I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. **4** Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? **5** I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. **7** So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

8 “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. **9** If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

Jesus’ Sorrow for Jerusalem

31 At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

32 He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’”

33 In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

34 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. **35** Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’[a]”