

Willow Springs Worship

March 9, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Call to worship – Sarah Foss

One: Christ collides with our bias. Who will follow Christ?

Many: **We will follow for sure, but we will tell you where to bring down your fire.**

One: Jesus says, “Follow me.”

Many: **We will follow when our calculations are finished.**

One: Christ collides with our leanings.

Many: **For your reign, O God, help us put a hand on your plow and not look back.**

All: *Guide 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 cling to our assumptions and insist that our point of view is the correct one.**

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 biases and assumptions 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 – Phil Kaufmann

Scripture – Luke 4:14-30 (NRSVUE)

Sermon – Jolene Miller

Christ Collides with Our Bias

Songs

VT #174 Christ Has Broken Down the Wall

VT #790 How Can We Be Silent

Sharing and prayer – Elvin Krabill

Song

Announcements

Sending – On our faith journey, Jesus collides with our biases to transform our thoughts and actions. Expand the reign of God! Go, growing peace!

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

Calendar

March 12 Elders Meeting

March 13 Pie Making, 6:00 pm

March 14 Mennonite Women, 9:30 am

March 14-15 Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale

March 16 Input by Grant Miller

March 22 Seed & Plant Swap, Science Ridge MC

March 23 Input by Anna Zehr

March 30 Hymn Sing at Roanoke MC 4:00 pm

Thank you to Jolene Miller for bringing the message today!

The theme for this first Sunday of Lent is: Christ Collides with Our Bias: Jesus confronts the biases of those around him as well as our biases.

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.

Anna Zehr will be attending MCC's Stones Cry Out! Peace Camp this week, March 10-15.

The [Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale](#) is coming up on March 14 and 15 and pie making will happen on Thursday, March 13 at 6:00pm at the church. All are welcome to come help make pies together! Schedule:

March 14 Trivia Night! Doors open at 5:00 pm
March 15 Pancakes and sausage breakfast, Dutch market, booths, quilts and many other items for auction. 6:00am-2:00pm
Location: Interstate Center, Bloomington, IL

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. A more detailed announcement will be made today at church. If you have questions about this process, please talk with one of the Elders.

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.

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 4:14-30 (NRSVUE)

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

14 Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. **15** He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17** and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the
captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." **22** All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" **23** He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" **24** And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. **25** But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, **26** yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. **27** There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." **28** When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. **29** They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. **30** But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.