

# Willow Springs Worship

## Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025 9:30 a.m.

### Welcome

### Scripture – Luke 23:44-56

### Call to worship – Esther Johnson

One: The stone is rolled away!

Many: **Why look for the living among the dead?**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

One: No nonsense here! Christ collides with death, affecting the universe.

Many: **Christ collides with death, affecting each of us.**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: *Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

### 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 linger in the shadows of fear and death, afraid to fully embrace the love you showed us through the resurrection.**

All: *We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us fully live in the love you showed us in Jesus' death*

*and resurrection 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.

### Song – VT 512 Let the Children Come

### Children's time – Beth Gerig

### Scripture – Luke 24:1-12

### Congregational Reflections: *Christ Collides with Death* – facilitated by Anna Zehr

### Songs – VT 332 In Christ Alone

### Sharing and prayer – Elvin Krabill

### Song

### Announcements

**Sending** – As we journey, Jesus collides with our death. New life comes forth in this collision! In resurrection hope, go, growing peace!

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

### Calendar

April 23 Bible School Planning at WS, 7:00 pm  
April 27 Input by Bryan Miller

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.

For those who would like to help plan Bible School, please come to a planning meeting at the church, **this week Wednesday, April 23** at 7:00 pm.

Our Maundy Thursday Service was a meaningful time of worship and fellowship. Thank you to all who came, brought food, helped set up and clean up, and helped lead the service! Each of these pieces was an act of service to each other and to our community!

3/16 transitional pastor update: Pastor Phil Waite will join us in mid-July, to assist as we discern what comes next for Willow Springs. This process will require time, thought and energy. We hope all of you will be willing to put in this energy. We have work ahead of us! 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 24:1-12 NIV

### *Jesus Has Risen*

**24** On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. **2** They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3** but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4** While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. **5** In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? **6** He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: **7** 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " **8** Then they remembered his words.

**9** When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. **10** It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. **11** But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. **12** Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

## **Easter Sunday Worship** **Reflecting on the transforming, life-changing, joyous Resurrection!**

Today we are celebrating Jesus' Resurrection! What an amazing and joyous event that transforms our journeys! We will worship through singing and congregational sharing of reflections on Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We invite each of you to reflect on these questions and consider sharing during our worship service:

Throughout Lent we have been exploring how Christ confronts us and challenges us. How have you experienced Christ colliding in your life? How has Jesus transformed you, particularly as we have thought about our biases, condemnation, priorities, selfishness, blinders, and expectations?

During the children's message, the children will remove the objects sitting at the base of the cross representing each of the themes from the past six Sundays and place flowers there, symbolizing how death collides with new life in Jesus' death and resurrection. Share something that is a symbol of new life to you. This could include a physical object, or a song for the congregation to sing, a scripture or poem focusing on joy, or a mental image or symbol.

From the resources for worship this Sunday: "Since that day [Jesus' resurrection], God's steadfast love has flowed to all people equally, breaking down social constructs and barriers. Sins are forgiven, and outcasts and oppressed people are welcomed into the kingdom. Death has been conquered, and eternal life is now a possibility for all. Therefore, death is swallowed up, and life is everlasting! How, as Christ's followers, can we live this out more fully in our lives?"

Have you seen the events of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in a new way?

In John 20, Mary fails to recognize Jesus. How have you failed to recognize Jesus? How can we become better equipped to recognize Jesus and how Jesus is working in the lives of those around us?

How have you witnessed God's work through Jesus? How are you sharing the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection with others?

Are we ready for the new life that comes when Christ collides with us?