

Willow Springs Worship

April 6, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Call to worship – Sarah Foss

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

Many: We want to know you and follow you, O Christ.

One: Will you cry to God? Will you climb a tree?

Many: We will journey, scanning the horizon for signs of the kingdom.

So much is hidden, and at times we do not grasp what God is saying.

One: Jesus, show us mercy.

Many: Seek and save us.

All: Jesus, show us mercy.

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 walk through our days with blinders on, unable to see or understand clearly.

All: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us walk with open eyes and hearts 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 – Connie Kauffman

Scriptures – Luke 18:31-19:10 NRSV

Sermon – Lynette Miller

Traveling with Blinders

Songs

VT 401 Open the Eyes of My Heart

Sharing and prayer – Ellen Davis-Zehr

Song

Announcements

Sending – As we journey, Jesus collides with our blinders. See anew! Step toward shalom! Expand the reign of God! Go, growing peace!

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

Calendar

April 10 Church Board, 7:30 pm

April 11 Mennonite Women, 9:30 am

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

April 13 Palm Sunday, Input: Richard Blackburn

April 16 Elders meeting, 7:00 pm

April 17 Maundy Thursday Service, 6:00 pm

April 20 Easter Sunday: Worship through singing

Thank you to Lynette Miller for bringing the message today!

The theme for this fifth Sunday of Lent is Christ Collides with Our Blinders. What do our blinders keep us from seeing? What blinders must we remove to receive a clear understanding of truth, faith, and compassion? What blinders may be keeping us from Christ's salvation?

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

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!

Our Maundy Thursday service is on April 17 at 6:00 pm. We will reflect on the Last Supper through singing, drama, communion, and foot washing. Please sign up to bring food to share for supper.

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 18:31-19:10 NRSVue

A Third Time Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

31 Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. **32** For he will be handed over to the

gentiles, and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. **33** After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again.” **34** But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar Near Jericho

35 As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. **36** When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. **37** They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth[a] is passing by.” **38** Then he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” **39** Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he shouted even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” **40** Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him, and when he came near, he asked him, **41** “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me see again.” **42** Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.” **43** Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God, and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

Jesus and Zacchaeus

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. **2** A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. **3** He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. **4** So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. **5** When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” **6** So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. **7** All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” **8** Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” **9** Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”