

Willow Springs Worship
November 30, 2025 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

Be Amazed: Hope in the Furnace

Scripture – Based on Daniel 3:8–18

Welcome and Call to Worship – Beth

One: God of our ancestors, you are our constant hope through all the ages.

Many: **We come eager for stories of you standing among us.**

We come longing to feel your presence among your people once again.

One: As the days darken around us, hope can feel a distant memory.

Many: **Even in the middle of trials, we keep our eyes on you. Our allegiance is to you alone.**

One: Trust in God's steadfast love. Stand in amazement, ready to recognize God already among us here, in this place.

All: *Our hope is in you, O God. Fill our hearts with the courage of our ancestors. Ready us to enter their story and be amazed.*

Prayer – Beth Gerig

Songs – Phil Kaufmann

Children's time – Elvin Krabill

Candlelighting

One: We have been wandering in the dark, fear engulfing us like a burning furnace. We long for your hope to find us and silence the flames of our fears.

Many: **Come, Hope of the world. Come amaze us.**

All: *May your hope flood the flames of our fears.*

Song – Verse 1 of the theme song "Come, Hope of the World" as the candle is lit.

Scriptures – Daniel 3:1, 19–30
Habakkuk 1:1–5; 3:17–19
Psalm 26:1–7 NRSV

Sermon – Anna Zehr

Be Amazed: Hope in the Furnace

Songs – VT 618 Sometimes a Light Surprises

Sharing and prayer – Dale Bachman

Song

Announcements

Sunday School ends at:

Sending – Go now with courage, trusting in the God who walks with you through the fire. May the light of God's salvation shine brightly for you even in the darkest days. Hold fast to hope, for the Lord is faithful and will never forsake you. Go in peace, ready to be amazed by the One who acts to save.

Sending Song

Calendar

Nov. 30 First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 7-21 Phil Waite in Tiskilwa
Dec. 7, 14, 21 Phil Waite Preaching

Tuesdays at 10:00 am: Praise, Prayer and Pacing: If you would like company getting in your daily walk join the group at the church to Praise, Pray, and Pace. If you want to receive a text reminder, let Beth know.

Please remember to place your gifts in the basket towards the back of the sanctuary. You may still give to the love gift for Marilyn and Eldon by noting "Love Gift - Eigstis" on the memo line.

This Advent, congregations are invited to explore the theme "Be Amazed!" through the symbol of a star. The star reminds us of God's mysterious and

guiding presence—distant yet near, powerful yet gentle. Like the blazing stars in the sky, God’s glory is sometimes hidden from view by our distractions, expectations, or the “clouds” of daily life. Yet, the light of God is always shining—waiting for us to notice. Just as the magi followed the star to find Christ, we too are invited to look up, notice, and be amazed by God’s presence.

Advent at Home 2025 Resource

Advent begins November 30 and MC USA invites us to deepen our worship at home with their 2025

Advent at Home guide. This year’s theme, “Be Amazed,” follows MennoMedia’s Leader magazine and offers weekly reflections and practices for individuals, families and households of all ages. You can access it [here](#).

On **December 8** Willow Springs is providing salad and volunteers for the Our Table meal at the First United Methodist Church in Princeton. On **December 15**, we are invited to sing Christmas carols during the meal. Talk to Pam to sign up for volunteering.

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

Habakkuk 1:1–5 (NRSV)

1 The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

The Prophet’s Complaint

2 O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?

3 Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise

4 So the law becomes slack,
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

5 Look at the nations and see!

Be astonished! Be astounded!

For a work is being done in your days
that you would not believe if you were told.

Habakkuk 3:17–19 (NRSV)

Trust and Joy in the Midst of Trouble

17 Though the fig tree does not blossom
and no fruit is on the vines;

though the produce of the olive fails
and the fields yield no food;

though the flock is cut off from the fold
and there is no herd in the stalls,

18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will exult in the God of my salvation.

19 GOD, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer
and makes me tread upon the heights.[a]

To the leader: with stringed[b] instruments.