

Willow Springs Worship

December 14, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent ***Be Amazed: Joy in the Desert***

Scripture – Based on Isaiah 55:1, 6, 9-12 NRSVue

Welcome and Call to Worship – Beth

Based on Isaiah 55:1–13 NRSVue

One: Come, all who hunger and thirst for more—
God calls us to the feast!

**Many: We are weary exiles, longing for home,
caught in a world that drains our hope.**

One: “Listen, so that you may live! My covenant
is everlasting, my promise sure.”

**Many: Can joy reach us here, in this place of
waiting?**

One: God’s vision is higher than the heavens,
stretching beyond what we can see.

**Many: The invitation is for all people,
from the farthest reaches of the earth.**

One: The word of the Lord does not return
empty—it brings forth life!

**Many: The mountains and the hills will burst
into song,
the trees of the field will clap their hands!**

**All: *You are the source of true joy, O God.
You expand our vision,
lifting our eyes beyond the moment,
beyond despair, into amazement.
We stand before you, ready to enter your
story and be amazed.***

Prayer – Beth Gerig

Songs – Phil Kaufmann

Children’s time – Carol Gale

Candlelighting

One: We have been wandering in the dark, cold,
desert of grief and despair,
and we feel heavy, dry and lifeless.

Many: Come, Joy of the world. Come amaze us.

**All: *May your joy water our thirsty souls,
that we may become your fountains of joy,
freely sharing your joy with the world.***

Song – Verses 1-3 of the theme song “Come,
Hope of the World” as three Advent candles are lit.

Scriptures – Isaiah 55:1–13; Psalm 42;
Isaiah 40:1–5; John 4:13–14 NRSV

Sermon – Phil Waite

Quenched Thirst

Songs – VT 161 I Sought the Lord

Sharing and prayer – Elvin Krabill

Song

Announcements

Sunday School ends at:

Sending

Eat and drink, be filled with the abundant joy of the
Lord, delighting as the Holy Spirit moves here
among us.

May your heart be open,
ready to receive God’s abundant love.

Watch and wonder,
for signs of God’s promised One are
everywhere.

Go in the knowledge that, at any moment,
God’s glory will break through our assumptions
and amaze us with new possibilities.

Sending Song

Calendar

Dec. 15 Caroling at Our Table, 5:00 pm

Dec. 21 Phil Waite Preaching

Dec. 21 Christmas Program, 4:00 pm

Dec. 28 Sally Schreiner Youngquist Preaching

Christmas Program

December 21 at 4:00pm we are planning to have a
short Christmas program followed by a time of
fellowship and simple snacks. Please join us and
bring simple finger food snacks to share. Feel free
to invite family and friends.

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.

For adult Sunday School today, the Elders will lead
a time of reflecting and responding to the sermon.

Tomorrow, Monday December 15, we are invited
to sing Christmas carols during the Our Table meal
at the First United Methodist Church in Princeton,
at 5:00 pm.

Dear Willow Springs Mennonite Church,
I want to thank all who came from Willow Springs to
my birthday party. It truly meant so much to me. I
appreciate the support you have shown me over
the years or from the very beginning after I was
born. Thanks for all the birthday blessings and all
who attended my birthday party. May you all be
blessed in this coming year. God bless each one of
you this Christmas season. Sincerely, Simon Zehr

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

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](#).

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

John 4:13-14 (NRSV)

13 Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this
water will be thirsty again, **14** but those who drink of
the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.
The water that I will give will become in them a
spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

Psalm 42 (NRSV)

Longing for God and His Help in Distress
To the leader. A Maskil of the Korahites.

- 1** As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
- 2** My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?
- 3** My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”
- 4** These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng[a]
and led them in procession to the house of
God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.
- 5** Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.
- 6** My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.
- 7** Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your torrents;
all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.
- 8** By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.
- 9** I say to God, my rock,
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?”
- 10** As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”
- 11** Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.