

Willow Springs Worship

December 21, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent ***Be Amazed: Love Comes Down***

Scripture – John 1:1–5, 10, 15 NRSVue

Welcome and Call to Worship – Beth

Based on John 1:1–18 NRSVue

One: In the beginning was love, and love was with God, and love was God.

Many: We gather in awe and amazement, watching and waiting for Love to come down.

One: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Many: We wait with hope, longing for the gentle light of love to fill the world.

One: The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

Many: We have seen his glory, Love embodied among us.

One: Come, let us worship the God who moves among us, the Christ who draws near, the Spirit who shines in our hearts.

**All: *The Light is coming!*
We tremble in excitement and uncertainty.
*Watching, waiting, for Love to be born.***

Prayer – Beth Gerig

Songs – Phil Kaufmann

Children's time – Andy Krabill

Candlelighting

One: We have been wandering in the long, dark night, looking into the vastness, looking for even a glimmer of light, to usher in your love.

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

All: *May your love dispel the darkness and reveal your path of grace and mercy, inviting us to journey with you.*

Song – Verses 1-4 of the theme song “Come, Hope of the World” as four Advent candles are lit

Scriptures – John 1:1-18; Psalm 130:5-8; Isaiah 9:2, 6 NRSV

Sermon – Phil Waite

Oh Great Mystery

Songs – VT 236 Creator of the Stars of Night

Sharing and prayer – Ellen Davis-Zehr

Song

Announcements

Sunday School ends at:

Sending

Go now, watching and waiting for love to come down.
Look into the world ready to be amazed—
light shines in the darkness, steady, sure.
Hold fast to hope, for the Word is becoming flesh,
grace and truth are drawing near to dwell among us.

May the God who speaks,
the Christ who comes near,
and the Spirit who shines within you
fill you with love and peace, now and always.

Sending Song

Calendar

Dec. 21 Christmas Program, 4:00 pm

Dec. 28 Sally Schreiner Youngquist Preaching

Jan. 4,11,18 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.

Christmas Program

This afternoon, 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.

The materials have arrived! For adult Sunday School today, we will have the first class using the booklet "What is an Anabaptist Christian?"

If anyone is interested in participating in a small group that meets via Zoom, please contact Deb Borys or Elaine Good.

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 1:1-18 (NRSV)

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to

the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.^[b]

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him.

11 He came to what was his own,^[c] and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,^[d] full of grace and truth. **15** (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") **16** From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.^[e] **17** The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who^[f] is close to the Father's heart,^[g] who has made him known.

Psalm 130:5-8 (NRSV)

5 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

6 my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

7 O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

8 It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Isaiah 9:2, 6 (NRSV)

2 ^[a]The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.