

Willow Springs Worship

December 28, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Sunday after Christmas ***Be Amazed: God Among Us***

Scripture – John 1:29-34 NRSVue

Welcome and Call to Worship – Beth

Based on John 1:19-34 NRSVue

One: In the wilderness, a voice cries out:
“Prepare the way of the Lord!”

**Many: We have heard the call;
we have watched for the light.**

One: The One we waited for has come—
a gentle dove, a vulnerable child.

**Many: We have seen the Christ child among the
poor;
we have heard the soft flutter of wings.**

One: This is how God arrives among us—
not in power and might, but in vulnerable
love.

Many: Your ways are not our ways, O God.

One: Come, let us worship the One who has come
among us,
the Lamb of God, the light of the world.

**All: *We stand in amazement—
Christ has been revealed!***

Prayer – Beth Gerig

Songs – Phil Kaufmann

Children’s time – Eliana Gale

Candlelighting

One: We have been waiting in the long, dark
night, waiting for your light of hope, peace,
joy, and love to reveal itself and shine on us.
Shine in us.

**Many: Come, Light of the world.
Amaze us!**

**All: *May your light shine through the dark,
illuminating your path, illuminating our
souls.***

Song – Verses 1-5 of “Come, Hope of the World”
as the Advent and Christ candles are lit

Scriptures – John 1:19–34; Psalm
32:1–2; Isaiah 40:3 NRSV

Sermon – Sally Schreiner Youngquist
*Seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance to
lead us from Empire to Beloved
Community*

Songs – VT 57 Holy Spirit, Come with Power

Sharing and prayer – Dale Bachman

Song

Announcements

Sunday School ends at:

Sending

Go now, not seeking your own way,
but pointing always to Jesus.

Go, watching for the Spirit,
ready to recognize the gentle dove.

And as you go, may the God
who reaches down to touch the earth
fill you with peace and wonder, now and always.

Sending Song

Calendar

Jan. 4, 11, 18 Phil Waite Preaching

Jan. 9 Mennonite Women, 9:30 am

Jan. 17 Church Board Retreat

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.

The materials have arrived! For adult Sunday
School today, we will have the second 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.

A memorial service for Jim Fitz will be held Saturday, January 17 at Reba Place Church. See additional details and RSVP in the email that was sent out to the church.

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. Themes for each week: Be Amazed: Hope in the furnace, Peace in the valley of bones, Joy in the desert, Love comes down, and God among us.

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 1:19-34 (NRSV)

The Testimony of John the Baptist

19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” **20** He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, “I am not the Messiah.”^[a] **21** And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” **22** Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” **23** He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. **25** They asked him, “Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah,^[b] nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” **26** John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, **27** the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal.” **28** This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Lamb of God

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **30** This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ **31** I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” **32** And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. **33** I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ **34** And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”^[c]

Psalm 32:1-2 (NRSV)

The Joy of Forgiveness

Of David. A Maskil.

- 1** Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
2 Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no
iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Isaiah 40:3 (NRSV)

- 3** A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our
God.