

Willow Springs Worship

December 7, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

Be Amazed: Peace in the Valley of Bones

Scripture — Based on Ezekiel 37:1-6, 10, 13-14

Welcome and Call to Worship — Beth

Based on Ezekiel 37:1–14 NRSVue

One: God in our desert, you are our peace in all places.

Many: Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.

One: Thus says the Lord God:
“Come from the four winds, O breath,
and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.”

Many: Can these dry bones live?

One: The wind of God moves among these dry bones.
Stand and live!

(Everyone stand)

Many: We are the people of God, a vast multitude, filled with God’s Spirit.

One: “I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.
I will place you on your own soil;
then you shall know that I, the LORD,
have spoken and will act,” says the LORD.

**All: You are the only source of true life, O God.
You breathe new life into our dry bones
and fill us with your peace.
We stand before you,
ready to enter your story and be amazed.**

Prayer — Beth Gerig

Songs — Phil Kaufmann

Children’s time — James/Anna

Candlelighting

One: We have been wandering in the dark,
our spirits dry and cracked from conflict,

aching for peace to pour into the crevices to
revive us.

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

**All: May Your peace fill the cracks in our dry,
brittle bones.**

**Bind us together, strengthen and unite us,
that we might dance!**

Song — Verse 1 and 2 of the theme song “Come,
Hope of the World” as two Advent candles are lit.

Scriptures — Ezekiel 37:1–14

John 11:25–26 NRSV

Sermon — Phil Waite

Do We Believe This?

Songs — VT 212 Comfort, Comfort, O My People

Sharing and prayer — Pam Kaufmann

Song

Announcements

Sunday School ends at:

Sending — Stand up people of God, feel the
breeze on your skin.

God is doing something new among us!

As you wait,
may God’s peace settle deep within your bones,
renewing and restoring you.

Go out into the world, filled with the peace of God.
Be ready, waiting to look on in amazement
as God calls old bones to new life.

Sending Song

Calendar

Dec. 7-21 Phil Waite in Tiskilwa

Dec. 7, 14, 21 Phil Waite Preaching

Dec. 11 Church Board, Thursday at 7:00 pm

Dec. 12 Mennonite Women, 9:30 am

Dec. 21 Christmas Program, 4:00 pm

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](#).

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

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.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NRSV)

The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. **2** He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. **3** He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." **4** Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. **5** Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath[a] to enter you, and you shall live. **6** I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath[b] in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. **8** I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. **9** Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:[c] Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,[d] and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." **10** I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11 Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' **12** Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. **13** And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. **14** I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

John 11:25-26 (NRSV)

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.[a] Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"