

Willow Springs Worship

Nurturing Faith Together

September 27, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Worship – Anna
VT 887

Songs – Phil K.

Children's time – Connie

Scripture – Revelation 18 (NRSV)

Sermon – Phil Waite
A Tale of Two Cities

Song – VT 416 Beyond a Dying Sun

Sharing and prayer – Pam

Song

Announcements

Sunday School ends at:

Sending Blessing – Rev. 21:2-4

² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home^[a] of God is among mortals.
He will dwell^[b] with them;
they will be his peoples,^[c]
and God himself will be with them and be their God;^[d]

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for^[e] the first things have passed away.”

Sending Song

Calendar

Sept. 27	Willow Springs Annual Meeting
Oct. 1-4	Sustainable Christian Agriculture Conference at Hungry World Farm
Oct. 4	Natalie Nyberg preaching
Oct. 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.

Please remember to place your gifts in the basket towards the back of the sanctuary.

Our **Willow Springs Annual Meeting is today**, Sunday, September 27, immediately following our worship service in the basement. There will be no Sunday School and childcare will be provided. The meeting will be approximately from 10:45-1:00. Bring your own lunch to eat during the meeting. Agenda will include reports from various groups. All are welcomed and encouraged to join this meeting!

Next week we will join with Christians around the globe in observing World Communion Sunday.

Pastoral search update: The elders have begun the process of forming a pastoral search committee. We have met with our conference minister, Bryan Miller. We have updated the Congregational Information Form (CIF) and worked on a pastoral job description. The search committee is being formed. If you have questions, please ask one of the elders.

Please pray for the planning and participants of the Sustainable Christian Agriculture Conference to be held October 1-4 at Hungry World Farm concluding with a worship service and carry-in-meal on Sunday the 4th of October at Willow Springs. Registration and an opportunity to give toward the conference can be found on the HWF website. [Sustainable Christian Agriculture Conference - Hungry World Farm](#)

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

Revelation 18 (NRSV)

The Fall of Babylon

18 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was

illuminated by his splendor. ² He called out with a mighty voice,

“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!
It has become a dwelling place of demons,
a haunt of every foul spirit,
a haunt of every foul bird,
a haunt of every foul and hateful beast.^[a]
³ For all the nations have fallen^[b]
from the wine of the wrath of her prostitution,
and the kings of the earth have engaged in sexual
immorality^[c] with her,
and the merchants of the earth have grown rich
from the power^[d] of her luxury.”

⁴ Then I heard another voice from heaven saying,

“Come out of her, my people,
so that you do not take part in her sins
and so that you do not share in her plagues,
⁵ for her sins are heaped high as heaven,
and God has remembered her iniquities.
⁶ Render to her as she herself has rendered,
and repay her double for her deeds;
mix a double dose for her in the cup she mixed.
⁷ As she glorified herself and lived luxuriously,
so give her a like measure of torment and grief.
Since in her heart she says,
‘I rule as a queen;
I am no widow,
and I will never see grief,’
⁸ therefore her plagues will come in a single day—
pestilence and mourning and famine—
and she will be burned with fire,
for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.”

⁹ And the kings of the earth, who engaged in sexual
immorality^[e] and lived in luxury with her, will weep and
wail over her when they see the smoke of her
burning; ¹⁰ they will stand far off, in fear of her torment,
and say,

“Alas, alas, the great city,
Babylon, the mighty city!
For in one hour your judgment has come.”

¹¹ And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for
her, since no one buys their cargo any more, ¹² cargo
of gold, silver, jewels and pearls, fine linen, purple,
silk and scarlet, all kinds of scented wood, all articles
of ivory, all articles of costly wood, bronze, iron, and
marble, ¹³ cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh,
frankincense, wine, olive oil, choice flour and wheat,
cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, slaves—and
human lives.^[f]

¹⁴ “The fruit for which your soul longed
has gone from you,

and all your delicacies and your splendor
are lost to you,
never to be found again!”

¹⁵ The merchants of these wares, who grew wealthy
from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment,
weeping and mourning aloud,

¹⁶ “Alas, alas, the great city,
clothed in fine linen,
in purple and scarlet,
adorned with gold,
with jewels, and with pearls!

¹⁷ For in one hour all this wealth has been laid
waste!”

And all shipmasters and seafarers, sailors and all
whose trade is on the sea, stood far off ¹⁸ and cried
out as they saw the smoke of her burning,

“What city was like the great city?”

¹⁹ And they threw dust on their heads as they wept
and mourned, crying out,

“Alas, alas, the great city,
where all who had ships at sea
grew rich by her wealth!
For in one hour she has been laid waste.”

²⁰ Rejoice over her, O heaven, you saints and apostles
and prophets! For God has condemned her
condemnation of you.

²¹ Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great
millstone and threw it into the sea, saying,

“With such violence Babylon the great city
will be thrown down
and will be found no more;

²² and the sound of harpists and entertainers and of
flutists and trumpeters

will be heard in you no more,
and an artisan of any trade

will be found in you no more,
and the sound of the millstone
will be heard in you no more,

²³ and the light of a lamp

will shine in you no more,

and the voice of bridegroom and bride

will be heard in you no more,

for your merchants were the magnates of the earth,
and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.

²⁴ And in you^[g] was found the blood of prophets and
of saints

and of all who have been slaughtered on earth.”