

Willow Springs Worship
Nurturing Faith Together
October 4, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Prelude – VT 789 Be a Sower

Welcome and Call to Worship – Anna
Psalm 148

Songs – Elaine and Ellen
HWB 391 God, Whose Farm is All Creation
VT 806 Called by Earth and Sky
VT 512 Let the Children Come

Children's time – Elvin

Scripture – Luke 8:4-15 NRSV

Sermon – Natalie Nyberg
God's Good Word Grows

Song – Canticle of the Sun (back page)

Communion – Phil Waite
Communion by intinction, a server will give you bread. We welcome all baptized believers to join us at the table. The bread is gluten free.
VT 940-941
VT 477 Seed, Scattered and Sown

Sharing and prayer – Ellen

Song – VT 828 There's a Wild Hope in the Wind

Announcements
Sunday School ends at:

Sending Blessing – VT 1067

Calendar
Oct. 7 Church Board, 7:00 pm via Zoom
Oct. 9 Mennonite Women, 9:30 am
Oct. 11, 18 Phil Waite preaching
Oct. 12 Church Board Structure, 8:00-12:00

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.

Thank you to Natalie Nyberg for bringing the message today!

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

All are welcome to join our adult Sunday School following worship. Today's focus will be an informal discussion of the sermon and the legacy of St. Francis as today is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The class meets in the sanctuary.

Please join us for lunch at noon today.

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

Luke 8:4-15 (NRSV)

The Parable of the Sower

⁴When a large crowd was gathering, as people were coming to him from town after town, he said in a parable: ⁵"A sower went out to sow his seed, and as he sowed some fell on a path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶Some fell on rock, and as it grew up it withered for lack of moisture. ⁷Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. ⁸Some fell into good soil, and when it grew it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "If you have ears to hear, then hear!"

The Purpose of the Parables

⁹Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets^[a] of the kingdom of God, but to others I speak^[b] in parables, so that

'looking they may not perceive
and hearing they may not understand.'

The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹¹ “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. ¹⁴ As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵ But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart and bear fruit with endurance.

¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

Psalm 148

¹ Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!
³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!
⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
⁶ He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹² Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.