

The Third Sunday in Lent, March 7, 2021

United Church of Christ, Neillsville - Pastor Jacoba Koppert

PRELUDE

Karen Mohr

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Father has commanded me. Get up. We're leaving this place.

Mark 14:32-36

³² Jesus and his disciples came to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus said to them, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ He took Peter, James, and John along with him. He began to feel despair and was anxious. ³⁴ He said to them, "I'm very sad. It's as if I'm dying. Stay here and keep alert." ³⁵ Then he went a short distance farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if possible, he might be spared the time of suffering. ³⁶ He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible. Take this cup of suffering away from me. However—not what I want but what you want."

John 15:9-17

⁹ "As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. ¹² This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I don't call you servants any longer, because servants don't know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. ¹⁷ I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls. Make us to know the ways of Jesus, O Lord, teach us his paths.

Jesus loves you; Jesus loves us; may we abide in his love.

All the paths of Jesus Christ are steadfast love and faithfulness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, you sent Jesus into the world to show us how to be loved and loving; yet too often we have refused your love and to be compassionate toward all. You sent Jesus to bring healing and hope, yet too often we have neglected to ask for his help. You sent Jesus to save the world, yet too often we act as if we can save ourselves. Forgive us and help us choose to follow in the ways of Jesus. Embrace us so we might have a closer relationship with you and with Jesus. In his name we pray. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

BLESSING/ASSURANCE

RECEIVING AND SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 14:28-31

²⁸ You have heard me tell you, 'I'm going away and returning to you.' If you loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than me. ²⁹ I have told you before it happens so that when it happens you will believe. ³⁰ I won't say much more to you because this world's ruler is coming. He has nothing on me. ³¹ Rather, he comes so that the world will know that I love the Father and do just as the

MEDITATION

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

*"Who Is Jesus for Me? The One Who Loves God
and All Humanity"*

THE HYMN *"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"*

I am weak but Though art strong;
Jesus keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus is my plea,
Dailey walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares
If I falter Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. **(Refrain)**

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore. **(Refrain)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall never hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER

May the God of love be with you.

May the Christ who expresses love to all be with you.

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the One who brings healing and hope.

Let us give thanks to our faithful God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor continues prayer...

As we remember his zeal for your heart,
as we remember his passion for us,
we would speak of that mystery we know as faith:

**Christ died, love breaking sin's power;
Christ was raised, death conquered by our redeemer;**

Christ will return, desiring us more than anything in all creation.

CONSECRATING THE ELEMENTS

If you are at home, please lift your hands above your elements.

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING AND THE POURING

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Let us at many tables receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

We come to Christ in the Bread we share.

Let us in many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

We come to Christ in the Cup we share.

If you are at home, take and eat and take and drink. If you are in the sanctuary, the elements will be available for you to take home as you leave the building.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Communion Liturgy is written by The Rev. Thom M Shuman on lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com; by The Rev. Maren Tirabassi on giftsofopenhands.wordpress.com; Book of Worship United Church of Christ and the Rev. Jacoba Koppert

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Karen Mohr

Announcements

Welcome to our service of worship! We are glad you have joined us in-person, through the internet or on the radio. We pray you will experience God's love and know you too are called to follow Jesus.

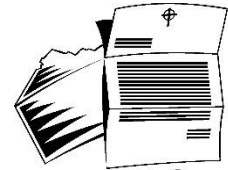


Time to
Spring Ahead

- 10AM in person Sundays. Masks and social distancing required. *Please do not come if you feel ill.*
- 10AM Sunday Our service can be found on YouTube "UCC-Neillsville" and our website "Neillsvilleucc.org"
- 11AM Sunday Radio Broadcast WCCN 98.5 FM; 1370 AM
- Children's Time will be added to our closed Facebook page on Sunday after worship
- 7:15 Wednesday March 3 CD for 7th graders

*Don't forget to change your clocks! Day Light Savings Begins Sunday
March 14th.*

We would like to thank to Ruth and Bob Schmidt for sponsoring this weeks radio show in memory of brother, Marvin Mohr



*Annual
Giving
Statements*

Your giving statements are available for pick up. Either stop by or call the office and we will give it to you. We can mail it by request if desired. All unclaimed donation envelopes will be shredded after April 15.

