

The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 14, 2021

United Church of Christ, Neillsville - Pastor Jacoba Koppert

PRELUDE

Karen Mohr

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RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

May God be gracious to us and bless us.

May Jesus' saving power be among us.

Let the people's praise you, O God; let all the people's praise you.

May God continue to bless us; let the far ends of the earth honor the LORD.

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 5:1-8

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ²Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him,

“Do you want to be made well?” ⁷The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” ⁸Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” ⁹At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath. ¹⁰So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, “It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.” ¹¹But he answered them, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your mat and walk.’” ¹²They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take it up and walk?’” ¹³Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. ¹⁴Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.” ¹⁵The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. ¹⁶Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath. ¹⁷But Jesus answered them, “My Father is still working, and I also am working.” ¹⁸For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

MEDITATION

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

“Who Is Jesus for Me? The Healer”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

MISSION MOMENT

Kelley Burch

One Great Hour of Sharing

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE HYMN "Near the Cross"

Jesus, keep me near the cross-
There a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calvary's mountain

Refrain:

**In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river**

At the cross I stood one day
Love and mercy found me;
There the bright and morning star
Shed its beam around me

Refrain

Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadow o'er me

Refrain

Near the cross I'll watch and wait
Hoping, trusting ever
Till I reach the golden strand
Just beyond the river

Refrain

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.

- 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
- Tuesday 5:30 Trustees Meet, 7:30 Council March 9

- 7:15 Wednesday March 10 CD for 7th graders

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.



We would like to thank Sue and Jim Popple for sponsoring this week's radio broadcast in loving memory of Nobert and Phyllis Embke.

We are now taking sponsors for the 2022 radio broadcast. Contact the office if interested.

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lilly for the sanctuary, please contact the church office **as soon as possible and no later than March 20th**. Lilies are \$15.