

The Sixth Sunday of Easter May 16, 2021

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

All music in this service copied and streamed under OneLicense.net A-723900 and CCLI License # 20913817

PRELUDE Karen Mohr
"Prelude and Fugue in C" by J.S. Bach

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship the One who created the world and all that is in it.

Who we are and all we have is a gift from God.

Come, let us follow Jesus who calls us to leave behind our anxious concerns about how we shall meet our own needs.

Jesus reminds us, God feeds the birds of the air; God dresses the lilies in the field; won't God do much more for us?

Come, let us seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit who will lead us away from our fears and toward generosity.

God provides so that we can do the work to which the Spirit calls us.

Let us worship God who is faithful and whose love endures forever.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, by his love, Jesus made himself known to us. As his followers, we are also to make God's love known in the world. Sometimes we fail Lord.

Occasionally our thoughts, our words, our actions are unkind. Sometimes what we do divides rather than expressing compassion.

At times we are stingy with grace and forgiveness. We give with hesitation and under pressure.

Forgive us, loving God; we need your help in becoming more loving and generous. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE READING II Corinthians 9:1-8

¹ It's unnecessary for me to write to you about this service for God's people. ² I know about your willingness to help. I brag about you to the Macedonians, saying, "Greece has been ready since last year," and your enthusiasm has motivated most of them.

³ But I'm sending the brothers so that our bragging about you in this case won't be empty words, and so that you can be prepared, just as I keep telling them you will be. ⁴ If some Macedonians should come with me and find out that you aren't ready, we (not to mention you) would be embarrassed as far as this project goes.

⁵ This is why I thought it was necessary to encourage the brothers to go to you ahead of time and arrange in advance the generous gift you have already promised. I want it to be a real gift from you. I don't want you to feel like you are being forced to give anything. ⁶ What I mean is this: the one who sows a small number of seeds will also reap a small crop, and the one who sows a generous amount of seeds will also reap a generous crop.

⁷ Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work.

MEDITATION Rev. Andrew Warner
"The Rhythm of Generosity"

VIRTUAL HYMN "They'll Know We Are
Christians by Our Love"

1. We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored

REFRAIN:

**And they'll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians
By our love**

2. We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand
And together we will spread the news
That God is in our land

REFRAIN:

3. We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity
And save each man's pride

REFRAIN:

4. All praise to the Father
from who all things come
And all praise to Christ,
Jesus his only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit,
who makes us one

REFRAIN:

5. Repeat Verse 1 with refrain

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 "Strengthen the Church"

Kelly Burch

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Karen Mohr

"God Still Lives" by J.S. Bach

Announcements

Welcome to our service of worship! We are glad that you have joined us in-person, through the internet or on the radio. We pray that you will experience the peace of Christ's presence.

- 10AM Sunday in person and online worship. Masks and social distancing required. *Please do not come if you feel ill.*
- 11AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN 98.5 FM; 1370 AM
- 5:30PM May 18, Trustees Meeting
- 7:30PM May 18, Council Meeting on Zoom

We would like to thank Ruth and Bob Schmidt for sponsoring this week's radio broadcast in memory of her sister, Eunice Artac.

Next Sunday, May 23 **Pentecost** – we invite you to wear red. Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served. The Ecumenical Chimers will play as part of the service.

Neillsville-United Church of Christ

515 West 2nd Street

May 16, 2021

Curbside Pick-up

10:30 -11:00 am

