

# WOSHIP ORDER FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

MAY 2, 2021

NEILLSVILLE UCC, PASTOR JAMES MOHR

**PRELUDE** "Kum Ba Yah" John Behnke, Karen Mohr

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are gathered in the presence of the risen  
Christ, who remains with us forever.

**When we abide in the love of Christ, love, joy, and  
peace grow.**

We are rooted in Christ's love that we may bear  
these fruits together with all God's people.

**With the faithful of every race, tribe, people, and  
nation we sing:**

**Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, and might  
be to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

With all the signs of new life in Christ around us,  
we still cling to our old ways.

Let us confess our sin to God and to one another.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

When we do not accept as our sisters and brothers  
in Christ those who are different from us, **forgive  
us, O God.**

When we oppose you by opposing those who  
disrupt our routines and challenge our  
assumptions, **forgive us, O God.**

When we willfully disobey you and lose faith in  
your future, **forgive us, O God.**

God, in your mercy, restore us to newness of life.

Bind together your church universal through the  
coming of your Holy Spirit.

Empower us to witness with courage to the  
presence of Jesus Christ among us. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**ORGAN RESPONSE**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Isaiah 53:6-9

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is  
silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
Who could have imagined his future?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.

<sup>9</sup> They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get  
up and go toward the south<sup>L</sup> to the road that goes  
down from Jerusalem to Gaza." <sup>27</sup> So he got up and  
went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court  
official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in  
charge of her entire treasury. He had come to  
Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home;  
seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet  
Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to  
this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and  
heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do  
you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> He  
replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?"  
And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside  
him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was  
reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**SERMON** “Picture Perfect”

**THE VIRTUAL CHOIR** “Many Are the Light beams”  
(Cyprian of Carthage/Olle Widestrand)

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### 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

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### BLESSING

**POSTLUDE**, “Credo” J. Hayden, Karen Mohr

### 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 service.

Masks and social distancing required. *Please do not come if you feel ill.*

11AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN 98.5 FM; 1370 AM

May 9, Mother’s Day

May 10, 6:00 Board of Christian Education

May 12, 6:00 Stewardship Committee

May 13, 1:30 Circle of Friends

## Neillsville-United Church of Christ

**515 West 2nd Street**

May 16, 2021

**Curbside Pick-up**

10:30 -11:00 am



Our last Sunday school for this academic year was April 18. Thank you, Stephanie Heck and the board of Christian Education, for their hard work in assuring that Sunday school could happen this year.

**We would like to thank Bob and Ruth Schmidt for sponsoring this week’s radio broadcast in honor of their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.**

2022 radio broadcast sponsorships are available, contact the office if interested.

