

## The Third Sunday after Pentecost June 13, 2021

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

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**PRELUDE** *“Prelude in Classic Style”*

Karen Mohr

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Lamentations 3; Psalm 138;  
II Corinthians 5

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,  
God’s mercies never come to an end;

**They are new every morning;**

**Great is your faithfulness.**

The LORD is good to those who wait for him,  
to soul that seek him. It is good that one  
should wait quietly for the salvation of the  
LORD.

**On the day I called, you answered me;**

**you increased my strength of soul.**

**Great is your faithfulness.**

We walk by faith and not by sight. Christ  
urges us on.

**Our goal is to please God.**

**The love of Christ urges us on.**

**Great is your faithfulness.**

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for us;  
God’s steadfast love endures forever.

**Great is your faithfulness.**

**LITANY OF CONFESSION**

When we forget that God’s ways lead to a  
future filled with hope

**Lord have mercy.**

When we fail to notice how God sees the  
world; when we judge by human standards

**Christ have mercy.**

When we deny God’s new creation, continuing  
to live and see according to the ways we  
always have.

**Lord have mercy.**

**SILENCE AS WE CONFESS OUR SIN**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**A READING FROM THE HEBREW TESTAMENT**

I Samuel 15:34 – 16:13

<sup>34</sup>Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. <sup>35</sup>Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

<sup>16</sup><sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” <sup>5</sup>He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” <sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And

Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.

The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

#### **A READING FROM THE EPISTLES**

II Corinthians 5:16-17

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. <sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

<sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

**MEDITATION** Rev. Jacoba Koppert  
*"Wondering If God Is Doing Something New:  
New Ways Have Arrived"*

#### **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**

##### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

##### **BENEDICTION**

##### **THE HYMN** *"Borning Cry"*

I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
To see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,  
With a faith to suit you well;  
I'll be there in case you wander off  
And find where demons dwell.

When you found the wonder of the Word,  
I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living God,  
To whom you now belong.

Should you find someone to share your time  
And you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
From dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,  
Not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
Complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your morning cry.  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
To see your life unfold.

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## **POSTLUDE**

### **Announcements**

#### **WELCOME**

We welcome you 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 love of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

9 AM Sunday in person. If you are not yet vaccinated, we encourage you to wear masks.

9 AM Sunday and anytime thereafter, you may worship with us on YouTube, UCC-Neillsville. There are links to our Youtube channel on our Facebook pages and website, [neillsvilleucc.org](http://neillsvilleucc.org) and in this email.

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

#### **TUESDAY, June 15**

4:00pm Constitution Committee

5:30pm Trustees Committee meeting in person

#### **THURSDAY, June 17**

1:30pm Circle of Friends on Zoom

#### **SUNDAY, June 20**

9:30 – 10:15am Dairy Give Away

#### **OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Janice's hours – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-1pm.

#### **CHURCH CAMP**

If any youth is interested in attending UCC camp this summer, we have scholarships available. The council is willing to fund any youth wanting to attend a UCC camp. Contact the church office for an application. There are camps for all ages – the young ones can go to camp with an adult. There are camps with a variety of themes – check it out at [UCCI.org](http://UCCI.org)

#### **RADIO BROADCAST**

**We would like to thank Sue and Jim Poppo for sponsoring this week's radio broadcast in loving memory of Sue's parents, Norbert and Phyllis Embke.**

#### **YOUR CHOICE - HYMNS**

On June 6, we began singing in the Sanctuary again. The Council in their April Meeting suggested we sing one hymn at the end of the service in order that those who are not ready to sing, can leave. What hymn (s) have you most missed? Pastor Jacoba will choose from among them. Email, or text her or call the church office.