

## The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 11, 2021

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

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**PRELUDE** "Air 1" George F. Handel Karen Mohr

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### WELCOME

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

How lovely is your dwelling place, O God of hosts!

**My soul longs, yea faints for your courts; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

**We sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things.**

Rejoice in the Lord, O you, and give thanks to God's holy name!

**HYMN** "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You" H. vanDyke

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the storms of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea.  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing,  
ever blessed, wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest! Loving Spirit,  
Father, Mother  
all who love belong to you; teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; Boundless love is reigning o'er us reconciling race and clan.  
Ever singing, move we forward,  
faithful in the midst of strife, joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

### WE PRAY TOGETHER

Living God, you invite all you your people into the dance with you. It is a dance of praise, creativity, justice, and rejoicing. We are not always comfortable praising you in public. Help us to overcome our reservations and wholeheartedly praise you. Persuade us to dance with you and in your presence.

Encourage us to invite others to the dance.

**In the name of Jesus we pray, the one who dances with joy. Amen.**

**OUR RESPONSE** "Halleluja"

Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

### A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

II Samuel 6:1-6, 12b-19

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.<sup>2</sup>David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim.<sup>3</sup>They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart<sup>4</sup>with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark.<sup>5</sup>David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing;<sup>13</sup>and when those who bore the ark of

the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling.<sup>14</sup> David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod.<sup>15</sup> So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.<sup>16</sup> As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.<sup>17</sup> They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord.<sup>18</sup> When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts,<sup>19</sup> and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

## A READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Ephesians 1:3-14 (The Message)

<sup>3-6</sup> How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

<sup>7-10</sup> Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. *Abundantly* free! He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

<sup>11-12</sup> It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the

overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

<sup>13-14</sup> It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This down payment from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

**MEDITATION** Rev. Jacoba Koppert  
*"God-Inspired Joy"*

## 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

**HYMN** *"This Is My Father's World"* F. Sheppard  
This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears

All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise; The morning light, the lily white, Declares their maker's praise.

This is my Father's world; Why should my heart be sad? The Lord is King, let the heavens ring; God reigns, let the earth be glad!

### BENEDICTION

### 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

### **RADIO BROADCAST**

**We would like to thank a faithful listener for sponsoring this week's radio broadcast .**

**WEDNESDAY, July 14<sup>th</sup> 5pm – Stewardship Meeting**

**6:30pm – Deacons Meeting**

Pastor Jacoba sharing some mid-week thoughts -

What a joy to worship in person again while knowing we have options now that allow more people to worship as works best in your schedules. I also want you to know when our paths do not cross, you are missed. I am grateful for the many ways our congregation continued to do ministry and offer services throughout the pandemic. I am also grateful for the new ministries and the on-going ministry that has resumed in recent months. Many of us are faithfully supporting the ministry and mission of the church.

I am now occasionally preaching a series of sermons for several weeks, a month or a season. When I summarized the series last Sunday, several listeners mentioned that was helpful, so let me summarize what I felt led to preach in June and the first Sunday in July. The theme each week was “Wondering If God Is Doing Something New”.

- On June 6, the text was 1 Samuel 8:4-12, 16-20, 11:14-15; The people of Israel went to Samuel and demanded a king – so they could be like their neighbors. How do we want to be like our neighbors? And do we really want to be like our neighbors, doing what our neighbors do? Is being like our neighbors what God wants for us?
- On June 13, the texts were I Samuel 15:34 – 16:13 and II Corinthians 5:16-17. God was not pleased with Saul who God had anointed as Israel's first king. Samuel was sent to Bethlehem to anoint a new king. Samuel thought he had found the new king – but God said not this one – God was looking not at appearances but the heart. God's ways were new ways. Is God in our day doing something new in the church and world? Do we perceive it; are we open to it? Are we willing to change and go where God leads us?
- On June 20 the texts were Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41 and I told the story of David fighting Goliath. Our theme had to do with having courage in the face of struggles, challenges, and newness. David showed his courage. Jesus, awakened by the disciples on the stormy sea, encouraged them to not lose heart. If God is doing a new thing, do we have the courage to go where God leads us. We know Jesus will lead us in directions if we follow him.
- On July 4 the texts were Psalm 130, Psalm 30 and Mark 5:21-43. These readings speak of changing our lives from mourning to dancing because God is giving new life. The woman who with the flow of blood, touched the hem of Jesus' garment and was healed knew new life and the child who had died and then raised from the dead by Jesus had new life – as did her family. Where is there new life for us in these days – in our nation, in our church and in our personal lives? What new life does God want us to know and receive? Are we willing to live a new life – or are we so eager to return to the old ways that we miss the new reality God is now setting before us?

The sermons I have briefly summarized are still available on You-tube – and I am willing to share the written scripts.

I continue to wonder is God doing something new – am I am open to it?

I hope you will also choose to wonder and consider where God is leading you, our church and nation.