

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 18, 2021

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

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PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, gather around.

Seek the presence of Jesus.

**Though once we were far off, now we have
been brought near by the blood of Jesus.**

Christ is our peace and through him we
become one, having access in,
One Spirit to God our Creator.

**We are no longer strangers; we are members
of the household of God.**

*HYMN *"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"*

John Mason Neale, Thomas H. Troeger

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of our God and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever,
and our confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call you,
come, o God of Hosts today!
With your constant, loving kindness
hear your people as they pray.
Give your fullest benediction:
grace to follow Christ the Way.**

**Here renew your servants' vision,
that by faith they may attain,
peace and hope, renewed compassion,
strength to comfort those in pain,
Tears and grief transformed
to gladness in your everlasting reign.**

WE PRAY TOGETHER¹

Caring and Gracious God, you are the shepherd who gathers us together today to celebrate with grateful thanksgiving the community in which we live. We are nourished by its diversity, brought about by the unique gifts each person contributes. Be with us in this time of worship and encourage us to never cease welcoming the strangers we meet and accepting the gifts they bring. Grant that they will enrich our lives and will be a reminder of the joy that comes when all will be one in you. **Amen**

A READING FROM THE EPISTLE Ephesians 2:11-23

¹¹So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision" —a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with

Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

MEDITATION Rev. Jacoba Koppert
“Unified”

HYMN *“In Christ There Is No East or West”*
John Oxenham

**In Christ there is no East or West,
in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
God’s service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.**

**In Christ now meet both East and West,
in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community
throughout the whole wide earth.**

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.

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 and in this email.

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

RADIO BROADCAST

**We would like to thank Glenna Rhoades for sponsoring
this week’s radio broadcast in honor of her girls and their families.**

MONDAY, July 19th 9am – Card Making

We apologize for any technical difficulties if we are not on the radio.

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

THE BENEDICTION

THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Let There Be Peace”

By Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

**Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.**

**Let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.**

With God our Creator, children all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me;

let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment and

live each moment in peace eternally!

Let there be peace on earth

and let it begin with me.

POSTLUDE

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