

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 25, 2021

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

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PRELUDE Kelly Nielsen

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ (Copied from Book of Worship))

The Holy One says:

Why spend money on what does not satisfy?

Why spend your wages and still be hungry?

Listen to me and do what I say,

And you will enjoy the best food of all.

Listen now, my people,

and come to me, and you will have life!

Hear also these words of Jesus Christ:

I am the bread of life;

anyone who comes to me shall not hunger;

**anyone who believes in me shall never
thirst.**

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Generous God, you bless us! When we take
inventory of what we have, we often see an
abundance. Help us to trust that you will
indeed provide enough to feed our deepest
hungers. Forgive us when we close our eyes
to the needs of others. Help us to believe in
the power of Jesus to transform us and the
world. Amen.**

**SILENTLY WE CONFESS OUR PERSONAL SINS
ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Jesus feeds all who are hungry. As he feeds
us, he forgives us and offers a life that will
lead to wholeness and peace. Trust that
there will be enough: enough forgiveness and
enough love; trust that we will have enough
for the life God calls us to live.

THE HYMN

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

by Robert L. Edwards

**God whose giving knows no ending, from your
rich and endless store, Nature's wonder, Jesus'
wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up
ourselves in praise; Thankful song shall rise
forever, gracious donor of our days.**

**Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our
pilgrim way; From the night of anxious keeping,
loose us into generous day. Then when years
on earth are over, and we've lived our human
span, God, fulfill beyond our dreaming all our
stewardship began.**

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL John 6:1-14

After this Jesus went to the other side of the
Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A
large crowd kept following him, because they
saw the signs that he was doing for the
sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat
down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the
Passover, the festival of the Jews, was
near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large
crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip,
"Where are we to buy bread for these people
to eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself
knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip
answered him, "Six months' wages would not
buy enough bread for each of them to get a
little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon
Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy
here who has five barley loaves and two fish.
But what are they among so many
people?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit
down." Now there was a great deal of grass in
the place; so they sat down, about five
thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves,

and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

MEDITATION Pastor Jacoba Koppert
"A Generous Boy"

THE HYMN *"Take My Gifts"*
By Shirley Erena Murray

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me, gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free, now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away, now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit and I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed, harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God, spiced with humor, laced with laughter- flavor of

the Jesus life, tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer- gifts that I have yet to find, skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

**WE OFFER OUR GIFTS
PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**THE BENEDICTION
THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

1. Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; The sharing of a common life is like to that above.
2. When we are called to part it gives us inward pain, But we shall still be joined in heart and hope to meet again.

POSTLUDE

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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 Neil & Corrine Armitage for sponsoring this week's radio broadcast.

By TUESDAY, July 27th - Please get any articles for the AUGUST NEWSLETTER to the Office Administrator
SUNDAY, August 1st – Sacrament of Holy Communion – (if worshipping from home please prepare the elements so you can commune)

SUNDAY, August 15th – Joint Church Service with Calvary at Clark County Fair