

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 16, 2022
United Church of Christ, Neillsville
Pastor Jacoba Koppert

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PRELUDE *“Walking in the Air”* from the Snowman
Harold Blake

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Thus says the Lord, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”

**God calls us back to faithfulness,
for we are precious in God’s sight,
honored and loved.**

Let us worship God; give thanks to Jesus and be guided by the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION

God, we realize we are your beloved children. We hope you are pleased with us. Yet, we know we fall short of your expectations. We confess we fail to fully follow the teachings of Jesus. Sometimes we even admit we are not being Christian while continuing to say or do what we ought not to say or do. Have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SONG OF PRAISE *“Gloria Patri”*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME *“Baptized”*

THE SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:15-17,21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and

fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

MEDITATION

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

*“Changing the Direction: Through Baptism:
A New Identity”*

REMEMBRANCE OF OUR BAPTISMS¹

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be a disciple, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, to resist oppression, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ, as best you are able?

During the pause, you are encouraged to quietly respond to the question.

And do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to grow in your faith and to be a faithful member of the church, celebrating Christ’s presence and furthering God’s mission in all the world?

During the pause, you are encouraged to quietly respond to the question.

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

You are invited to dip your finger into the water, touch your forehead with the water, saying, “I am God’s beloved!”

PRAYER OF RECOMMITMENT

By your Spirit, Almighty God, Grant us
Love for others,
Joy in serving you,
Peace in disagreement,
Patience in suffering,
Kindness toward all people,
Goodness in evil times,
Faithfulness in temptation,
Gentleness in the face of opposition,
Self-control in all things.
Then strengthen us for ministry in your name.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 "O Jesus, I Have Promised" #402

John E. Bode / Arthur H. Mann

O Jesus, I have promised To Serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my Guide.

O let me feel Thee near me, The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me, Around me and within;
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised To all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory There shall my servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised To serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow My Master and my Friend.

THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"I am God's Beloved!" Service Prayers for the First Sunday after Epiphany, was written by the Rev. Dr. David Bahr. The questions, affirmations and recommitment of the Remembrance of Baptism have been adapted from material in Book of Worship, © 1986 Office of Church Life and Leadership.

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We highly recommend everyone attending services to wear a mask and practice social distancing.
UCC Leadership Council

Announcements

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.

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by a faithful listener.

- Today, January 16th –
Meal Give Away after worship
- Monday, January 17th –
9 am - Circle of Friends card making
- Tuesday, January 18th –
5:30 pm – Trustees Meeting
6:30 pm – UCC Council Meeting
- Wednesday, January 19th –
6 pm – Confirmation
- Thursday, January 20th –
Annual Reports due to the Office

PLEASE pick up your
2022 Offering Envelopes and
2021 Contribution Statements
in the Narthex

Souper Bowl Challenge is on
with Neillsville area churches participating,
now thru Super Bowl Sunday, February 13th

Start bringing your soup cans

to the Narthex.

Last year's count
was close
395 UCC
352 St. Mary's
335 Calvary



We are **looking for help** in hosting coffee fellowship following Sunday worship. Duties include picking up donut holes at IGA, (already paid for by the church) making coffee, set up and clean up. **Sign up sheet located in Narthex.**

