

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

The Rite of Confirmation

February 20, 2022

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

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PRELUDE *“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”* J.S. Bach

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.”

Lord, you are my hope and trust; upon you I have leaned since my birth. My praise is continually of you.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sin is visible to you. Give us courage to acknowledge the ways we have separated ourselves from you, from our neighbors and from ourselves. At times our ways hurt you, our neighbors and ourselves. As we confess our truth to you, forgive us and help us renew our desire to be faithful.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus loves us, this we know for the Bible tells us so. To Him we belong. We are weak, but he is strong. His love is powerful; his love is never ending. Through his love we are forgiven.

Lead us Holy One that we might seek and follow Jesus more fully. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME Haylee, Reese, and Colton

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 3:1-9, 21

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall

die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. ⁸They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

⁹But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

²¹And the Lord God made the man and his wife leather clothes and dressed them.

I Samuel 17:32-37

⁴⁰Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd’s bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. ⁴¹The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. ⁴²When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. ⁴³The Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.” ⁴⁵But David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name

of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand."

Mark 6: 45-52

⁴⁵Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

⁴⁷When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea. He intended to pass them by. ⁴⁹But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; ⁵⁰for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ⁵¹Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵²for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened

MEDITATION Pastor Jacoba Koppert
"Our Sin, God's Grace, Trust Jesus"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Order for Confirmation
Affirmation of Baptism

INVITATION

SENTENCES

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

STATEMENTS OF FAITH

Written by the Confirmands

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CANDIDATES

Pastor, Candidates and Leadership Council
Representative

**O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor: Let us pray in silence. Let us pray together.

All: Almighty God, who in baptism received your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant them 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 oppositions, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE ACT OF CONFIRMATION

Haylee Erickson, parents Chad & Lacey Erickson
mentor, Carole Romens
Colton Williams, parents Scott & Jill Williams
mentor, Jim Mankowski
Reese Ziegler, parents Joshua & Jenna Ziegler
mentor, Debbie Perkl

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS
QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION**

WELCOME

The congregation and all who are able may stand at this time.

Pastor: Let us, the members of United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CONFIRMATION HYMN *"Borning Cry"*

**I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you 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 borning 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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The Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION² *(Christ invites everyone to his table)*

Pastor: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

People: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER² *(We Thank God)*

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Pastor: *continues prayer...*

SANCTUS *(We praise God)*

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(Words remembered when Jesus ate with his disciples – words which make this meal a sacrament)*

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION *(Announcing what we believe)*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

CONSECRATION (*Asking the Holy Spirit to bless the elements and the congregation; offering ourselves in response to God's faithfulness*)

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that we might celebrate your presence in our lives. Make us one with everyone you invited to your banquet. Remind us of the day when in eternity we shall again eat with you and all you have welcomed home.

Gracious God, we offer ourselves to you; giving thanks for the opportunities we have to share your love in the world as we work toward justice and peace for all. Grant and help us that our words and actions will always honor and glorify you. We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BREAKING THE BREAD

POURING THE FRUIT OF THE VINE

CALL TO SUPPER

SHARING THE ELEMENTS (*The bread of life, the cup of blessing shared with all who believe in Jesus Christ.*)

The Confirmands will be served at the altar.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, we thank you for the presence and hope Jesus brings to this table. Relying on the Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and power to do your work. We pray these things through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit who reigns with you, one God forevermore. Amen

The liturgy for the Sacrament of Holy Communion is reprinted (with adaptation by Pastor Jacoba) from Book of Worship ©1986 by permission of the United Church of Christ Parish Life and Leadership

***COMMUNION HYMN #347**

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" F.Kaan

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy;
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share;
God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Karen Mohr



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 Ruth and Bob Schmidt
in memory of mom, Luella Mohr
and sister, Lois Mendenhall.**

- **Today, February 20th –**
Soup Give Away following worship
- **Monday, February 21st –**
9:00 am – Card Making
- **Tuesday, February 23rd –**
4:30 pm – Constitution/Bylaws
- **Sunday, February 27th –**
Pastor Jacoba's last worship service
at UCC-Neillsville

**We highly recommend everyone attending
services to wear a mask
and practice social distancing.**

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



We are **looking for help** in hosting coffee fellowship following Sunday worship. Duties include picking up donut holes (which are paid for by the church) making coffee, set up and clean up. Please sign up as we would love to continue this to encourage fellowship.



Next Sunday, February 27th –
Pastor Jacoba's last worship service
at UCC-Neillsville, please join us in
saying a fond farewell.