

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE *“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”*
with *“Ave Verum”* Mozart arr. Ana Laura Page
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Leader in light print – **People in bold print**)

Sing to God, all the earth.

Come before our God with singing and with shouts of thanksgiving.

With quiet offerings of praise,
with dances of love.

With the gift of open hands.

Bless the name of our God.

And rejoice before God in song.

HYMN *“Love Divine All Loves Excelling”*
275 UCC Red Charles Wesley

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav’n, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy precious love.**

**Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav’n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, the giver of life: How precious is your loving kindness. In you is the fountain of life; in your light we find light. We drink our fill from the abundance of your household, and under your wings we find refuge. We bring our thanks to you today for your steadfast love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Joshua 5:9-12

“A taste of freedom”

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, ‘Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.’ And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

EPISTLE LESSON II Corinthians 5:16-21

“Reconciled and reconciling”

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

“Welcomed to the banquet”

¹⁵Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’

³So he told them this parable:

¹¹Then Jesus said, ‘There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.” So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, “How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ ” ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” ²²But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

²⁵‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured

your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" ³¹Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

SERMON Pastor James Mohr
"Offended by Grace"

UNITED CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH

#885 NCH

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:
You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people from
aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth,
our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.
You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues and races.
You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.
You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.
Amen.

HYMN "O God, How we have Wandered"
#202 NCH Kevin Nichols

**O God, how we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling,
we turn with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling,
you call us each by name.**

**And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
By faith we are returning
with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us,
and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us
With calf and robe and ring.**

**O God of all the living,
both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving,
our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing
in pardon, and in peace.**

MORNING PRAYERS

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.**

THE OFFERING SERVICE

HYMN "Lead Us from Death to Life" #581 NCH
Refrain: Satish Kumar
Stanzas: Mary Haugen

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe.

Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
Still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
Come and teach us our way of compassion.

Refrain

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe.

So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,
Longing for love to break into their anguish.
Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,
Come and teach us your way of compassion.

Refrain

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe.

Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,
Let us begin to grow into your people.
We can be love, we can bring peace,
We can still be your way of compassion.

Refrain

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *"The Heavens are Telling"* Hayden
(please stay seated for Postlude)

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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 hear God's call,
Seek to follow Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO BROADCAST

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

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

- **Today, March 27th**
9:15 am – Sunday School

**Attention Committee Heads - Please get
your articles in for the **April Newsletter** by
March 29th so it can go out timely.**

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

Reminder – We are welcome to attend Calvary
Lutheran's soup supper and worship each
Wednesday evening.

6:00 – Soup Supper

7:00 – Worship



**Place your order for Lilies by April 1st with
Janice in the church office. Cost is \$17.00
this year, please make your check out to
Falls Florist.**

**You may dedicate your lily in honor or in
memory of someone. Please take your lily
home after Easter worship service.**