

The Second Sunday in Lent

March 13, 2022

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE *“Pavane”* Gabriel Faure’
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP Testimonial

– given by Dave Harnisch

“One Great Hour of Sharing”

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

We have gathered in the presence of God our creator, who sets before us the ways of life and death.

We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ, who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship that we may know its joy.

We have gathered in the presence of the Spirit, who sustains us in trial and rejoicing.

**In our living and in our dying,
we belong to God.**

**In the shadow of God’s wings,
we sing for joy.**

Let us worship God.

HYMN *“Just As I Am”* M. Luther
#207 New Century

**Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
And that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,**

**Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, you will receive,
will welcome, pardon, cleanse relieve;
Because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, your love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
Now to be yours, and yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

UNISON INVOCATION

We gather to worship, O God, under the shadow of the cross, sign of human shame and divine wisdom. Like Jesus, we would follow faithfully in your way; like Jesus, we would live to you and die to you. We are your people; we belong to you. We offer you our worship and our lives. May your name be glorified in your church as we are open to your presence today; through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have disobeyed your law. We have not loved you or our neighbors as we should. Forgive us, O God, and grant that we may live and serve you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 "The Abrahamic Covenant"

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' ²But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' ³And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' ⁵He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' ⁸But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' ⁹He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

EPISTLE LESSON Philippians 3:17- 4:1 "Stand Firm"

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example

you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

⁴ ¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 13:31-35 "Jesus weeps over Jerusalem"

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' ³²He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

SERMON Pastor James Mohr *"The Story of the Fox and the Hen: A Lesson about Confrontations and Caring"*

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 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 *"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*
#190 in New Century Hymnal E.C. Celphane

**Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat,
and the burden of the day.**

**Upon the cross of Jesus within my mind I see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my grieving heart with tears two wonders
I confess –
the wonders of Christ's glorious love and my
unworthiness.**

**I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of Christ's
face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.**

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.**

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

HYMN *"God the Omnipotent"*
#577 New Century Hymnal Alexis F. Lvov

**God the Omnipotent! boldly ordaining
thunder and lightning your strength to display,
Bring forth compassion where violence is reigning;
give to us peace in our time, we pray.**

**God the All-merciful! earth has forsaken
all you make holy, and slighted your way;
Bid not your wrath in its terrors awaken:
give to us peace in our time, we pray.**

**God, the All-righteous One! earth has defied you,
yet to eternity stands what you say;
Falsehood and wrong shall not tarry beside you;
give to us peace in our time, we pray.**

**God the All-provident! by your great chastening
earth shall see freedom and truth holding sway;
Though the thick chaos your reign is still hastening:
you will give peace in your time, we pray.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please stay seated

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

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



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
sponsored by Sue and Jim Popple
in loving memory of Sue's parents,
Norbert and Phyllis Embke.**

- **Today, March 13th**
9:15 am - Sunday School
- **Tuesday, March 15th** –
5:30 pm – Trustees Meeting
6:30 pm – Leadership Council Meeting

