

**The Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 20, 2022**

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor James Mohr

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**PRELUDE** *"Pie Jesu"* Gabriel Faure'  
Karen Mohr

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**STEWARDSHIP Presentation**

**"One Great Hour of Sharing"**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

Moses saw a burning bush and he took off his shoes, for he expected to be on holy ground.

**We have come to worship with our shoes on and our minds distracted.  
How shall we find holiness?**

As in Moses' time so also now,  
God always hears the cries of people and comes to be with them.

**Our prayers are full of cries.  
How shall we know that God answers?**

"I AM," God told Moses, and then God asked him for commitment.

**In this time of worship may we recognize God's name and respond to God's call.**

**HYMN** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"  
# 1 NCH Walter C. Smith

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;  
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,  
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**Your life is life-giving - to both great and small;  
in all life you're living, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,  
then wither and perish - but naught dims your powers.**

**So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,  
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render as your angels do:  
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, our Rock and Redeemer, hear our confession. We worship idols of our own making; when temptation overtakes us we submit to its charm. We find it easier to grumble at hardships than to praise you for mercies we receive day by day. We test you in every way. Yet you promise that you will not test us beyond our endurance. Forgive us when we take advantage of your loving nature and restore us to communion with you. 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** Exodus 3:1-15

*"I Am Who I Am"*

<sup>1</sup>Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' <sup>4</sup>When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' <sup>5</sup>Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' <sup>6</sup>He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup>and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' <sup>12</sup>He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

<sup>13</sup> But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to

you." ' <sup>15</sup>God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you": This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.

**EPISTLE LESSON** 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

*"For our Instruction"*

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

**SOLO** *"My Song is Love Unknown"* Joe Anderson  
Samuel Crossland

**GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 13:1-9

*"If it bears Fruit"*

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" <sup>8</sup>He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

**SERMON** Pastor James Mohr  
*'Who Stinketh the Most?'*

**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.

## **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** *"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*  
#23 NCH Frederick William Faber

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earthly sorrows  
are more felt than in God's heaven;  
there's no place where earthly failings  
have such kindly judgment given.**

For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of our minds;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful,  
we would gladly trust God's Word,  
and our lives would show thanksgiving  
for the goodness of our God.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** (please stay seated for Postlude)

**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 In honor  
of Gordon and Faith Vine  
sponsored by their children;  
Jane Nelson, Virginia Fennema,  
Paul Vine, Jeff Vine, Kris Kirschoffer.**

- **Today, March 20<sup>th</sup>**  
9:15 am – Sunday School
- **Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**  
9:00 am – Card Making  
4:00 pm – Constitution & Bylaws Review



**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 1<sup>st</sup>  
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.**