

**The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**April 3, 2022**

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Gary Wilner

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**PRELUDE** Ashley Volovsek

No Matter Who You are or Where You are on Life's Journey, You are Welcome Here!!

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

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

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us worship together the Searching God.

**We praise God. Like a good shepherd, who cares for all the sheep, he does not abandon anyone. He seeks the lost, lifts them up and brings them home.**

We praise God. God never stops seeking us out.

**Like a poor widow, who cherishes every coin, God does not cease from his searching.**

**God reaches out and rejoices when finding us.**

Let us remember those who are lost today - and pray for them and give thanks to our God.

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)**

**Oh God of Sarah and of Isaac, hope of Hagar and Ishmael, and guiding light of Mary and of Jesus, we come to you today from a long period in which many hearts have been broken around the world by disease, starvation and war. Our calm has been disrupted and our sense of security has been dashed. We are discouraged and tired from seeing images of destruction and death. We come to your house for a song of hope, a promise of peace, and a word of wisdom. Speak to us, O God**

**of our ancestors. Speak to us, O God in whom we live and breathe. Speak to us, O God of our children. Restore our souls, fill us with faith, look into our brokenness, and by your touch make us whole. Grant us and all peoples your peace. We ask it in the name of Jesus - who died that we might live, and who lives that we might never die. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN** *"Great is Your Faithfulness"*

#423 NCH

Thomas O. Chisholm

**Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator, with you no shadow of turning we see.**

**You do not change, your compassions, they fail not; all of your goodness forever will be.**

**Refrain:**

**Great is your faithfulness!**

**Great is your faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see;**

**All I have needed thy hand has provided.**

**Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!**

**2 Summer and winter, springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, Join with all nature in manifold witness to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

**[Refrain]**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring, your own dear presence to cheer and to guide, Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

**[Refrain]**

**CHILDREN'S TIME** *"Here to Help"*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SILENT PRAYER**

## READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Dave Harnisch

### NEW TESTAMENT 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The First reading this morning is from 1st Timothy chapter 1 verses 12-17 - The Lord's Grace to Paul

<sup>12</sup> I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. <sup>13</sup> Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. <sup>14</sup> The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners— of whom I am the worst. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. <sup>17</sup> Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### GOSPEL Luke 15:1-10

The second reading is from Luke chapter 15 verses 1-10 – *The Parable of the Lost Sheep*

<sup>1</sup> Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup> and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

### *The Parable of the Lost Coin*

<sup>8</sup> "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins[a] and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' <sup>10</sup> In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

### MESSAGE

Pastor Gary Wilner

*"You Came to Do What"*

### SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### COMMUNION SONG

*"Come and Taste"*

### EXHORTATION

#### CONFESSION OF SINS (Unison)

**Almighty God, parent of our Lord Jesus Christ, I I know that I have not done all the things I should have and done some things that I should not have. When I remember them, it makes me sad. I am sorry. Sometimes I feel so bad that I feel I am no longer worthy to be called your child. Forgive me Lord. Give me peace and strength to lead a good life through the power of your Holy Spirit. Through Christ, my Lord I pray. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION, INVOCATION, AND 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.**

### INVITATION AND COMMUNION

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

#### GIVING OF GIFTS – OFFERTORY

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

In gratitude we give you honor and glory forever,  
O God, for your grace has overflowed for us with  
the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Accept  
the sacrifice of our hearts and the works of our  
hands - a sacrifice that we can make only because  
you first gave yourself to us. Use us to do your  
will - both now and always. Amen.

**HYMN**                    *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*  
                                 #25 NCH                                    Isaac Watts

Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne  
your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood  
or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting you are God,  
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight  
are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten, as a dream  
fades at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Still be our God while troubles last,  
and our eternal home!

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                    Ashley Volovsek  
(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 given by a “faithful listener”.**

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**Please welcome our  
new interim pastor,  
Pastor Gary Wilner**

- **Today, April 3rd**  
9:15 am – Sunday School
- **Monday, April 4th**  
9:00 am – Card Making Group Meeting
- **Tuesday, April 5th**  
5:00 pm – Deacons Meeting
- **Friday, April 8th**  
8:30 am – Constitution Meeting

**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