

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 22, 2022

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Gary Wilner

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PRELUDE variations on *"Kum Ba Yah"*
John Behnke Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MISSION MOMENT JoAnn Voss

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Inspired by John 15:1-8)

One: Remain here. Remain here with me.

All: Remain in this soil. Remain in this earth.

One: Remain among these branches.
Remain watered in this love.

**All: Remain where we can grow.
Remain here where God loves you.
Remain here with us.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

O God, remain here with us. Nurture us where we are not growing. Encourage us to see the sun again.

**Remain here with us, O God. Remain here.
Remain in us. Amen**

HYMN *"All Things Bright and Beautiful"*
#31 NCH Cecil F. Alexander

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one. [Refrain]**

PRAYER (Unison)

O God, we are so worried about future generations. We want them to remain so that they can learn your ways.

We worry that we won't be here to tell them about you. We are worried they won't know about your love.

Remove this bad fruit from us, O God.

Trim away this branch. Remove that twig. Burn it in the fire.

Remain with us so that we might show your glory as we seek to grow again.

Feed us with your words so that we might find the new life we need.

Amen.

READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Reader Barb Petkovsek

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Our first reading this morning is from 1 John 4:7-21
God's Love and Ours

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

The second reading is from John 15:1-8
The Vine and the Branches

¹⁵ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the

word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. Here ends our reading of the Holy Scriptures for this morning.



HYMN "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

#423 NCH Thomas O. Chisholm

1 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 your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

2 Summer and winter, and 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]



MESSAGE *“Growing With God”*
Pastor Gary Wilner

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, SILENT PRAYER and
OUR LORD’S PRAYERS** (in Unison)

**Our God 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 TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)
**O God, let these gifts grow to reach the whole
world with love.
Remain in these gifts, O God, so that future
generations might know that we love them as
much as we love you.
Amen.**

CLOSING SONG *“The Prayer”* Video

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
(You are invited to stay seated for Postlude)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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
Frances Short and family
In Loving Memory of
Kenneth Short and our parents**

No church announcements for coming week.