

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 29, 2022

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Gary Wilner

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**PRELUDE** *"America the Beautiful"*

Lani Smith 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!!"*

**RECOGNITION OF OUR 2022**

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:**

**Karsen Czarnecki**

daughter of Neil Czarnecki & Kellie Murphy

**Mackenzie Keller**

daughter of Ellie Keller and Bob Keller

"Mackenzie will be attending UW Madison in the fall to pursue a degree in Psychology"

**Tye Kranz**

son of Joe & Michelle Kranz

**Dayne Loberg**

son of Keith & Tammy Loberg

"After graduation Dayne will continue to take care of two boys as he has done the past three summers. In the fall he will be attending UW River Falls to double major in actuary science and accounting. He will also continue with his music by joining the UW River Falls band"

**Santana Subke**

son of John & Michelle Subke

"Santana will be attending Milwaukee School of Engineering in the field of Biomedical Engineering"

**PRAYER FOR OUR GRADUATES** (Unison)

Dear God, we thank you that you have indeed given our children great hope and a future. We pray for the days you have purposed for them to walk in, every single one, and ask you to fill them with your spirit and power as they live out their destiny. We ask that you inspire them to never be afraid to dream big, run strong, and soar high.

We pray that nothing be allowed to hold them back in this life. May they fulfill every calling you have on their lives. Would you strengthen them to live a life of so much love, passion, influence, hope, and determination that this world is changed for the better. May they always know that anything is possible for those who believe. May they have a deep desire to serve faithfully and a heart to work hard. Shine over them. Fill them with your spirit. Bless them with your favor and peace.

In Jesus' name, amen

**MISSION VIDEO**

**RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY**

Pastor Gary

**PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE AND PEACE**

Don Quicker

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

Jesus, our Teacher, this is what you want us to learn

**Not the world's wisdom, but God's.**

Awaken us to our need of you in our lives

**And you will give us your life.**

Move us with sorrow for the sorrow of the world

**And you will make us strong through our tears.**

Give us the humility to admit our failures

**And you will bring treasure out of them.**

Make us hungry for justice

**And you will give us food that lasts.**

Help us to see others through your eyes

**And you will show us ourselves with love.**

Show us how to practice what we preach.

**And we will see God in everyone.**

Support us in standing firm for truth, even when it costs

**And the truth will also make us free.**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION** (Unison)

**God of our lives, you are always turning the world upside down, challenging us to follow you into new ventures, new challenges, new ways to care, new ways to touch the hearts of all.**

**When we get tired, or feel disappointed, remind us that you can bring change and hope out of the most difficult situations, so that we may do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you always. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

#1 NCH

Walter C. Smith

**1 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.**

**2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, but ruling in might;  
Your justice like mountains high soaring above  
your clouds which are fountains of goodness  
and love.**

**3 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.**

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

**READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**

Reader Jenny Romens Erickson

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

INTRO Pastor Gary

The first New Testament reading this morning is  
1st Corinthians chapter 1 verses 18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

And now from the Gospel of St. Matthew chapter  
5 verses 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Here ends the reading of this portion of our family history found in the Holy Scriptures.

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

**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**

**SERVICE OF GIVING AND SHARING**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

**Liberator Christ, you went to the top of a mountain, and taught a sacred word about the meek and the grief stricken, about the lost and the lonely.**

**Come to this place now, and by our gifts help us to see the world not as it is, but as it could be, that we may become good news to all. Amen.**

**MESSAGE**      *"The Wisdom of God"*  
Pastor Gary Wilner

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER  
COMMUNION HYMN: "One Bread, One Body"**

Kelly and Steven Brumm

**One bread, one body,  
one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many,  
throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.  
Gentile or Jew  
servant or free,  
woman or man, no more.**

**One bread, one body,  
one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many,  
throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.  
many the gifts  
many the works,  
one in the Lord of all.**

**One bread, one body,  
one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many,  
throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.  
grain for the fields  
scattered and grown,  
gathered to one, for all.**

**One bread, one body,  
one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many,  
throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.**

**COMMUNION LITURGY**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**CLOSING HYMN**    *“God of Grace and God of Glory”*

#436 NCH    Harry Emerson Fosdick    John Hughes

**1 God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your power;  
crown your ancient Church’s story,  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us  
and assail the Savior’s ways.  
From the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts for faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children’s warring madness;  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our reckless, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
make our broken spirits whole,  
make our broken spirits whole.**

**4 Set our feet on lofty places;  
gird our lives that they may be  
armored with all Christ like graces,  
in the fight to set us free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
in the quest for liberty,  
In the quest for liberty.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.**

**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  
Bob & Ruth Schmidt in memory of  
daughter, Tammy Backaus  
and parents,  
Walter & Lucille Schmidt.**

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- **Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**  
9 – 2 – Vacation Bible School
- **Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**  
9 am – card making