

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 21, 2022
United Church of Christ, Neillsville
Pastor Gary Wilner

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PRELUDE

"Simple Gifts" Julie Von Eschen

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Still-speaking God, we have come here today
for many reasons, each with our own story.
May these stories be immersed in your
Sacred Story, finding ourselves caught up in
the drama and beauty of Jesus' teachings,
life, and ministry.
Through your Holy Spirit enable us to move
boldly into the future and to fulfill the hope
of love that Jesus taught. Amen.

SONG *"Holy, Holy, Holy"*

#277 NCH Kelly and Steve Brumm

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim
falling down before thee,
who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man
thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy;
there is none beside thee
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name
in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER

THE LORDS 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

READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

1st Reading Acts 17: 22-31

Gospel Reading John 14: 15-21

Reader – Dave Harnisch

The first reading is Acts 17 verses 22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him — though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

"Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The second reading is from the Gospel of John Chapter 14 verses 15-21

[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom

the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Here ends the scripture reading for this morning.



MESSAGE

"Witness of Love-Never Abandoned"

Pastor Gary

SONG *"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"*

#286 NCH

James K. Manley

video Kelly and Steve Brumm

Refrain

**Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the
valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing;
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your
wings.”

(Refrain)

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You swept through the desert,
you stung with the sand
and you goaded your people
with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes.

(Refrain)

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole
world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush
of the wind.

(Refrain)

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient
schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives
dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With boldened decisions your people arise.

(Refrain)

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

SERVICE OF GIVING AND SHARING
PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

May these gifts, O God, become action and
intention, fulfilling Christ’s commandment to
love. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Take My Life, God, Let It Be”

#448 NCH Frances R. Havergal

**1 Take my life, God, let it be
consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**2 Take my spirit, let it move
at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use
all its powers as you choose.**

**3 Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace
make of it your dwelling place.**

**4 Take my love and help it grow;
let my loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be
part of Christ's community.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *“Down in the River to Pray”*
(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 Rosie Repinski in celebration of husband, Jim Repinski's 85th birthday.

Today, August 21st – immediately after worship – 3rd Visioning Workshop


YOU'RE

welcome

HERE!

