

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 7, 2022
United Church of Christ, Neillsville
Pastor Gary Wilner

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PRELUDE

"Adagio in G Minor" Tomaso Albinoni
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!!"*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Come, Holy God

Offer us your mantle of love and power in this place.

In the shelter of its love let us lay before you our troubles, our longings, our hopes.

Let its power open us to new ways through difficulty, struggle and loss into your Spirit's realm of joy and peace.

Come, Holy God, in your presence there is fullness of glory.

Amen

SONG *"Strengthen All the Weary Hands"*

#612 NCH Martie McMane

**Strengthen all the weary hands,
steady all the trembling knees,
and say to all faint hearts;**

**"Courage, courage, do not be afraid.
Look, your God is coming.
God comes, comes to save you.
Courage, Courage, do not be afraid."**

**Waters flow in the wilderness,
streams break forth amid arid deserts,
burning sands turn to pools.
Be strong, fear not, for your God is near,
Look, your God is coming.
God comes, comes to save you.
Be strong, fear not, for your God is near.**

**Then the ransomed shall return,
They shall come to Zion with singing,
Joy shall crown their heads.
Sorrow, sighing, all shall flee away.
Look, your God is coming.
God comes, comes to save you.
Sorrow, sighing, all shall flee away.**

**Let the wilderness be glad,
And the desert burst into blossom,
Dance and sing for joy!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Look, your God is coming.
God comes, comes to save you.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Reader – Wendy Sigurdson

The first reading is from 2nd Kings chapter 2
verses 1-2 and 6-14

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

Luke 9:51-62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked

them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER,

MESSAGE *"Picking Up the Mantle"*
Pastor Gary

SONG *"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"*
#495 NCH Jane Parker Huber

**Called as partners in Christ's service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend.
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God's chosen end.**

**Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear-call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**Thus new patters for Christ's mission,
In a small or global sense.
Help us bear each other's burdens,
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,**

Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.

SERVICE OF GIVING AND SHARING
PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Our hearts are glad as we help work your
wonders through our gifts. We ask your wisdom
as we put our hands to the plow and look not
back but only forward, visioning the kingdom of
God. Amen

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion Hymn: *"One Bread, One Body"*
Kelly and Steve 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.

EXHORTATION

CONFESSION OF SINS (Unison)

Almighty God, parent of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 INSITUATION, 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

CLOSING SONG

"May the Love of God Rain Down on You"

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 Howie and Kathy Mathis
in honor of their 43 years of marriage.



**No one who puts a hand to the
plow and looks back is fit for
the kingdom of God.**

Luke 9:62, NRSV

- **Today, August 7th**
–after worship – 2nd Visioning Workshop
- **Thursday, August 11th**
1:30 pm – Circle of Friends Summer Picnic
- **Next Sunday, August 14th**
9:00 am - Worship at Clark County Fair
in WCCN tent

