

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 30, 2022

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Gary Wilner

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PRELUDE *"Faith of Our Fathers"*

Hegarty/Hemy Deon Spangler

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (in unison)

One: Some of us wonder what this faith is all about,

All: And come hoping to learn things useful and heart-full.

One: Some of us are confident in "what we have learned and what we have believed."

All: And come longing to share our heart-full knowledge.

One: We have all come to learn from each other and from the words of scripture:

All: You write your sacred texts, O God, in scripture and on our hearts; you welcome us into depths of understanding.

Meet us here and lead us deeper into you; equip us for every good work.

Join our desire to learn with your willingness to teach us your ways of justice and joy.

For this purpose we gather, O Holy One.

Amen.

INVOCATION (in unison)

Divine One, from whom we seek a way to live that honors you, come and remind us of the law you have written on our hearts. God of our being, enter us by your Spirit and show us how sweet Your words are. Holy One of our yearning, bring your comfort and strength to this gathering that we may all partake of your wondrous love and welcome you to our lives. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Leader: You offer us covenant and write your word on our hearts.

Together we are the body of Christ, and each one of us has the responsibility, the desire, to respond to you in word and deed and love.

Yet, although you are beside us, within us, above us, all around us

People: we still manage to ignore you.

We are pleased to be in your family, but when it is time to do chores in your household

we are busy with other things!

We are satisfied to receive your gifts but when it comes to passing on your abundance and saying where we got it **we hesitate.**

We are happy to say an occasional prayer to you who are always with us, but when it comes to actually spending time with you, **we are already scheduled up!**

Help us to be your people as you are our God—always and forever.

Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SONG “Morning Has Broken” Eleanor Farjeon

**Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning!
Born of the One Light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day.**

**Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

CHILDREN'S TIME

READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Readers – Susie Karl, Barb Shoemaker

Our Old Testament reading this morning is-
1 Kings 18:20-39

²⁰ So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. ²¹ Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing. ²² Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the Lord’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. ²³ Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God.” Then all the people said, “What you say is good.”

²⁵ Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.” ²⁶ So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely, he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be wakened.” ²⁸ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹ Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.” ³² With the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs^[a] of seed. ³³ He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces, and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.” ³⁴ “Do it again,” he said, and they did it again. “Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵ The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

³⁶ At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷ Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you

are turning their hearts back again.”³⁸ Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!

Our Gospel reading today is **Luke 7: 1-10**

-The Faith of the Centurion

When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum.² There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die.³ The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant.⁴ When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, “This man deserves to have you do this,⁵ because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.”⁶ So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.⁸ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

PASTORAL, SILENT, 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

SERVICE OF GIVING AND SHARING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

God of our hearts, accept our offering and bless our gifts to your use in the name of Jesus, our Savior, and our brother. Amen

MESSAGE

“Can You Hear Me Now?” Pastor Gary

PARTING MUSIC

“He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought”

Joseph H. Gilmore William B. Bradbury

**He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whatever I do, where ever I be,
Still ‘tis God’s hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth, leadeth me,
By His own hands He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.**

**Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content whatever lot I see,
Since ‘tis my God that leadeth me.
He leadeth, leadeth me,
By His own hands He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.**

**And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the victory’s won,
Even death’s cold wave I will not flee,
Still God through Jordan leadeth me.
He leadeth, leadeth me,
By His own hands He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.**

BENEDICTION

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

youtube link for October 30, 2022
<https://youtu.be/IOY-YGD4QcY>

*This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored by Phil & Donita Follen
"In Honor of the Church Family"*

Tuesday, November 1st –

1 PM – Bible Study - Matthew- Chapters 16, 17
*every week at Marge Goetsch's home
510 W 14th Street

Sunday, November 6th –

10 AM -Worship will
include communion and
observance of All Saint's Day



**REMINDER next
Sunday,
November 6th** –
Change your clocks
back one hour

COMING SOON

Hope to see you there!



*58th Holiday Fair
United Church of Christ
2nd & Park Street, Neillsville
Saturday, November 12, 2022
9 AM - 1 PM*

*Gift Boutique, Greeting Cards,
Kitchen Cupboard, &
New to You Treasures*

*Lunch from 11 AM - 1 PM
Chicken Salad on a Croissant
Baked Potato Soup & Dessert
Adults - \$8; Kids Under 10 - \$5*