

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 15, 2023
United Church of Christ, Neillsville
Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE *"Rondeau"* Joseph Mouret
Arr. Diane Bish Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beautiful are the works of God!

**People: Beautiful also are the skins of God's
people!**

Leader: Beautiful is the mind of God!

**People: Beautiful also are the hopes of God's
people!**

Leader: Beautiful is the heart of God!

**People: Beautiful also are the souls of God's
people!**

Leader: God made the heavens and the earth!

**People: To God be the glory for the things God
has done.**

HYMN

"Come, We That Love God's Name"

#382 NCH Isaac Watts Robert Lowry

**1 Come, we who love God's name,
and let our joys be known;
Together God's great love proclaim,
Together God's great love proclaim,
and thus surround the throne,
and thus surround the throne.**

Refrain:

**We're marching to Zion,
beautiful, beautiful Zion.
We're marching upward to Zion,
the beautiful city of God.**

**2 Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
But we our thanks and praise will bring,
But we our thanks and praise will bring
for love so deep and broad,
for love so deep and broad.
[Refrain]**

**3 God's grace one earth is found,
The seeds of glory sown;
Celestial fruits on earthly ground,
Celestial fruits on earthly ground,
From faith and hope have grown,
From faith and hope have grown.
[Refrain]**

**4 The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heavenly fields,
Before we reach the heavenly fields,
Or walk the golden streets,
Or walk the golden streets.
[Refrain]**

**5 Then let our songs abound,
And every tear be dry;
We're traveling through Emmanuel's ground,
We're traveling through Emmanuel's ground,
To greater worlds on high,
To greater worlds on high.
[Refrain]**

CALL TO CONFESSION (Pastor)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**God who meets us and loves us fully,
we gather at the river of your grace.
Some of us are close and expectant
and others of us are far away and uncertain.
Meet us wherever we are
and gently embrace us with your love
so that we are drawn ever nearer to you.**

**Renew us with the flowing waters of baptism
and may we hear your voice
say to each one of us,
“You are mine.
I know you.
I love you forever.”
Amen**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Pastor)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

All are invited to greet one another with such words as “The peace of Christ be with you, and the response: “And also with you.”

ACT OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

(sung twice)

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.**

CHILDREN’S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother’s womb he named me. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” ⁴But I said, “I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.” ⁵And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— ⁶he says, “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, “Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 1:29-42

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’ ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.’ ³²And John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.’ ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’

The First Disciples of Jesus

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’ ³⁹He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They

came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

SERMON *"Meeting Jesus"* Pastor Mohr

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

UCC Statement of Faith

#885 NCH

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

HYMN *"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

#128 NCH Christina G. Rossetti

**1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**2 Our God transcends all heaven, earth,
and its domain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when Christ comes
to reign;
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the sovereign God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**3 Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.**

**4 What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
but what I can I offer: all my heart.**

MORNING PRAYERS

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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 TO GENEROSITY

Scriptural Sentence: Isaiah 2:2
In days to come the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

HYMN "We Shall Overcome"

#570 NCH J Jefferson Cleveland

1 We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall overcome some day.

2 We'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we'll go hand in hand some day.

3 We are not afraid,
we are not afraid,
we are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we are not afraid today.

4 Our God will see us through,
our God will see us through,
our God will see us through some day,
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
our God will see us through some day.

5 The truth shall make us free,
the truth shall make us free,
the truth shall make us free some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
the truth shall make us free some day.

6 We shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall live in peace some day.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Karen Mohr

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 for January 15, 2023
https://youtu.be/_TBNzwxRGFY

This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored by
Sue & Jim Pople
in remembrance of parents,
Norbert & Phyllis Embke.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, January 16th –

9 AM – Card Making

Tuesday, January 17th –

1PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14th Street

*every week at Marge Goetsch's home

5 PM – Trustees' Meeting

Wednesday, January 18th –

5 PM – Leadership Council Meeting

TODAY

January 15, 2023

Curbside Pick-Up

11:00-11:15 a.m.

**Meal
Give-Away**



United Church
of Christ
515 West 2nd Street