

Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 22, 2023
United Church of Christ, Neillsville
Pastor Sue Vornholt

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PRELUDE

"Shall We Gather" with "Prelude n C Major"

Lowry/J.S. Bach Arr. Anna Laura Page
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

OUR SHARED LIFE AND SERVICE (Announcements)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 27)

God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

God is our shelter and refuge on the days of trouble, and our hope on the days of celebration!

Day after day, we seek God's face and assurance of God's holy love:

Be our guide and our light instead!

One thing we ask of God:

That we may live in God's dwelling place all the days of our life, and never cease to behold the beauty of God's home.

Beloved of God, enter this worship thanksgiving, for God is among and within us!

Thanks be to God!

HYMN

"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"

#173 NCH vs. 1,2

Cesareo Gabarain

Trans. Madeline Forell Marshall

**1 You have come down to the lakeshore
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow.**

**O Jesus you have looked into my eyes;
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you I will see other seas.**

**2 You know full well my possessions.
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will for working.
O Jesus you have looked into my eyes;
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you I will see other seas.**

INVOCATION (All)

**Gracious Light-Bearer, Into the shadows of our isolation you speak words of life and community. Challenger of our lives, you call us from places we call home to lead us more deeply into the world you love.
With your gentle, healing touch you redeem the broken places of our lives and you heal the wounded places of the earth. Inspire our worship here this day, so that we may receive liberation in your word, and be filled to overflowing to share your reconciling love throughout the earth. We pray in Jesus' name,
Amen**

CALL TO CONFESSION (Pastor)

God has come to us in Christ, but we often live as if it made no difference. Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (All)

Gracious God, in Christ you call us to unity of mind and purpose, but we confess that our hearts are often turned separation and division. We quarrel; we encourage rivalries; we tear down our brothers and sisters in faith. Help us to remember that all have been baptized as one body into Christ's life and ministry with one voice.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Pastor)

Receive the good news: there is no place, not even in our hearts, where the love of God cannot penetrate. God is around and among us, healing, restoring and calling us to new life as one body, united in Christ **Praise be to God for the gift of forgiveness and the promise of peaceful unity!**

PRAISE RESPONSE

(sung twice)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Give voice to God's love and peace; those around us need to hear the Good News.

All: The Peace of God be with you.

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."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 9:1-4

9 [a]1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

2The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

3You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

4For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

Matthew 4:12-23

12 When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— 14 to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: 15"Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,

Galilee of the Gentiles—

16 the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." 20 At once they left their nets and followed him. 21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. 23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

MESSAGE "Follow Me" Pastor Sue

HYMN

" You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"
#173 NCH vs. 3,4

**3 You need my hands, my exhaustion,
Working love for the rest of the weary
A Love that's willing to go on loving.
O Jesus you have looked into my eyes;
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you I will see other seas.**

**4 You who have fished other waters;
You, the longing of souls that are yearning;
As loving Friend, you have come to call me.
O Jesus you have looked into my eyes;
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you I will see other seas.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Let us pray as Christ Our Savior has taught us.

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 (Pastor)

With a clear voice, Jesus calls us to accept the costs and joys of discipleship, and the challenges of living in peaceful unity with those who are different from one another. As we make our offering at this altar, let us remember that we give and work and love on behalf of Christ's whole and undivided body on earth, and let us celebrate the gift of unity that is ours through the Spirit and our generous hearts.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

(All)

God, to you we dedicate these gifts this day. May this act of giving inspire other ways that we may "fish up" your people, seeking out those who need your nourishing spirit. And we pray that you will multiply them and the gifts of all your faithful people like loaves and fishes, your may be revealed on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"

#539 NCH Richard Gillard

**1 Won't you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too.**

**2 We are pilgrims on a journey,
We are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Go the mile and bear the load.**

**3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.**

**4 I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.**

**5 When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.**

**6 Won't you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too**

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 22, 2023

<https://youtu.be/lrEK-1KJFOo>

This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored by
"a faithful listener".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, January 24th –

1PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14th Street

*every week at Marge Goetsch's home



The human mind plans the way,
but the LORD directs the steps.

Proverbs 16:9, NRSV