

First Sunday in Lent
February 26, 2023
United Church of Christ, Neillsville
Pastor Sue Vornholt

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PRELUDE

Holly Pisors

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

OUR SHARED LIFE AND SERVICE

(Announcements)

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service. **Thanks be to God!**

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

Temptation surrounds us at every turn, inviting us to take just a little more:

More food, more money, more power, more life!

"What could it hurt?" we hear, on television, from friends, in our own souls:

More suffering, more hunger, more need, more fear, more anger.

So we gather today in worship to hear the consequences of "more".

And to celebrate that we do not need "more when we have everything in Christ.

Beloved of God, let us drink deeply from the wellspring of God's Spirit, which has all we need to live fully, love deeply, and serve faithfully.

Thanks be to God!

HYMN *"I Need You Every Hour"*

#517 NCH Annie Hawks, Robert Lowry

**1 I need Thee every hour, O God of grace;
The peace your voice affords, I now embrace.**

**Refrain: I need you, how I need you!
Every hour I need you;
O bless me now, my Savior; I come to you.**

**2 I need you every hour, in faith or fear;
Temptations lose their power When you are near.
[Refrain]**

**3 I need you every hour, In joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, Or life is vain. [Refrain]**

**4 I need you every hour, Teach me your will;
And your rich promises in me fulfill. [Refrain]**

OPENING PRAYER

God, you are our hiding place and our refuge in the time of distress. We turn to you now, seeking comfort from the wounds of the world and power to face all our afflictions. Be present in our struggle, and help us to rest in your eternal promises, that we might be fed both with the bread of the world and the nourishment of your word, strong to resist temptation and faithful in our worship of you.

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

Creative, passionate God, you delight to shape the world in beauty and harmony. You invite us to participate in the balance of creation. We grow in wisdom as our experience unfolds; we take good learning out of difficult situations yet also find our well-meant endeavors leading to unintended consequences. Too often we give in to temptation that disrupts the joyous, chaotic order of the universe. We cannot undo all our mistakes, but we can turn once more to the living presence of Jesus and find new ways to live and love each other and the earth.

Do not let our hearts be fearful, but let us in silence acknowledge our sin seek the forgiveness that restores your peace.

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Pastor)

Even as Adam and Eve faced the consequences of their sin, our God prepared the way for them still to be connected to the earth and to the living presence of God. So, it is with all of us: in Christ's life, ministry, death and resurrection, we are made able to persist, upright and strong, for our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

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."

MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 4:1-11, Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Devil was ready to give it. ² Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, ³ which the Devil took advantage of in the first test: "Since you are God's Son, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God's mouth." ⁵ For the second test the Devil took him to the Holy City. He sat him on top of the Temple and said, ⁶ "Since you are God's Son, jump." The Devil goaded him by quoting Psalm 91: "He has placed you in the care of angels. They will catch you so that you won't so much as stub your toe on a stone."

⁷ Jesus countered with another citation from Deuteronomy: "Don't you dare test the Lord your God." ⁸ For the third test, the Devil took him on the peak of a huge mountain. He gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth's kingdoms, how glorious they all were. ⁹ Then he said, "They're yours - lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they're yours." ¹⁰ Jesus' refusal was curt: "Beat it, Satan!" He backed his rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: "Worship the Lord your God, and only him. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness." ¹¹ The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus' needs. Teaching and Healing

Romans 5:12-19

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned— ¹³ To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. ¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! ¹⁸ Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

MESSAGE "Back to the Basics" Pastor Sue

HYMN *"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*

#190 NCH

Elizabeth C. Clephane

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the
burden of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus within my mind I see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for
me;

And from my grieving heart with tears two
wonders I confess -
the wonders of Christ's glorious love and my
unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding
place;

I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of
Christ's face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or
loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the
cross.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

THE 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 TO GENEROSITY (Pastor)

God has led us to this place to heal and inspire
us, to gently redirect us, until we see the world
as God does and love it with God's love. With
our gifts, we affirm that God's generosity can
make us all into a new creation by the way we
give of ourselves.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

Liberator Christ, you went to the top of a
mountain, and taught a sacred word about the
meek and the grief stricken, about the lost and
the lonely. Come to this place now, and by these
gifts help us to see the world not as it is, but as it
could be, that we may become good news to all.
Amen our gifts.

HYMN *"What A Friend We Have in Jesus"*

#506 NCH

Joseph Scriven

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to our God in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
burdened with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
take it to our God in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to our God in prayer!
Jesus' arms will take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Holly Pisors

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.



for
March Newsletter
by Tues., February 28th

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO BROADCAST

11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN
98.5FM and 1370AM

You tube link for February 26, 2023
<https://youtu.be/zXS27UQ-yf4>

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



FIRST SUNDAY
in
LENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, February 28th –

1 PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14th Street

*every week at Marge Goetsch's home

Wednesday, March 1st –

6 PM – Soup Supper

7 PM - Lenten Worship Service (here at UCC)

We Need Your Help!

Volunteers are needed to host coffee fellowship each Sunday after worship. The sign-up sheet is posted on bulletin board at rear of church.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



Members interested in joining the **UCC Care Team** should plan to attend a two-hour training 4-6 PM on Tuesday, March 7 at UCC. For more details please contact Pastor Jim, Paul Vine or Barb Petkovsek.

Wednesday dates

Lenten Worship & Soup Suppers at UCC

March 1st

March 15th

March 29th

We need your help for these suppers, any one can volunteer for set up, clean up or what ever needs to be done.

Contact Janice in the office 715-743-2147.