

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 5, 2023
United Church of Christ, Neillsville
Pastor James Mohr

All music in this service copied and streamed under OneLicense.net A-723900 and CCLI License # 20913817

PRELUDE *"Prelude and Fugue in F"* J.S. Bach
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Open your hearts to the hungry.

People: **And care for the unhoused.**

Leader: Your light will shine brightly.

People: **And your bleakest hour will be like the noonday sun.**

All: *What a glorious day to worship God.*

HYMN *"All Things Bright and Beautiful"*
#31 NCH Cecil F. Alexander

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

INVOCATION (All)

Light of our life, shine among us as we gather on this sabbath day. Warm our hearts with your loving presence that we may radiate your light and love to others. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Righteous One, it is not easy to follow your path. Your way requires sacrifice and intention—resisting cultural norms and societal pressures and abandoning our need to control and to function from our own power. Sometimes, we add complexity to assure ourselves it is not possible to be faithful. Yet, your way is simple. Soften our hearts and encourage us to return to the journey with you.

WORDS OF GRACE (Pastor)

God, who is faithful, can redeem our detours and misdirections on the journey for our good and the good of others. God's invitation to covenantal life has no expiration date, and the Holy One receives us with joy and grace when we take even a step toward the kingdom.

PRAISE RESPONSE

(sung twice)

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

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."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Matthew 5:13-20

Salt and Light

¹³ ‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ ‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Law and the Prophets

¹⁷ ‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

MESSAGE *“Salty and Bright”* Pastor Jim

HYMN *“You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”*

#181 NCH (vs. 1 & 2) Marty Haugen

**1 You are salt for the earth, O people;
Salt for the reign of God!
Share the flavor of live in the City of God!**

Refrain:

**Bring forth the reign of mercy,
Bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice,
bring forth the City of God!**

**2 You are a light on the hill, O people;
Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
shine for the City of God! [Refrain]**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY (Pastor)

The generous life imagines the possibilities of the kingdom of God realized through the sharing of our gifts. Generosity glorifies God and connects us as neighbors. When we give of our time, talent, and treasure, we declare our trust in the abundance of God's continuing creative acts and participate in the realization of the kingdom on earth.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING (All)

God of Heaven and Earth, receive our gifts as a deposit of trust in your faithfulness and a seed of hope for the flourishing of your kingdom.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

#342 NCH

James Montgomery

1 Be known to us in breaking bread,
but do not then depart;
O Savior, stay with us and spread
your table in our heart.

2 Here share with us in love divine,
your body and your blood;
That living bread, that heavenly wine,
be our immortal food.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Consecration of the Elements

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

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (All)

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our
Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this
holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's
body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the
good news of your love and that your universal church
may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

HYMN

"This Little Light of Mine"

#524 NCH

arr. Jeffrey Radford

1 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine;
everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine;
all through the night, I'm gonna let it shine.
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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 for February 5, 2023

https://youtu.be/vwUc8uJM_fw

This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored by
Dan Patey and family
in loving memory of
Elvira Patey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, February 6th –
9 AM Card Making

Tuesday, February 7th –
1 PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14th Street
*every week at Marge Goetsch's home

Thursday, February 9th –
1:30 PM – Circle of Friends Meeting

Sunday, February 19th –
After worship - Annual Meeting



Calling All Women of the Church –

You are invited to attend a short meeting after Sunday worship on February 5th in the sanctuary. We need your input on purchasing some items for our church using Holiday Fair Funds.



Bring your soup cans into the narthex by February 12th. All soup donations go to our local food pantries.