

## Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor James Mohr

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**PRELUDE** *"Berceuse"* Felix Mendelssohn  
Karen Mohr

### **RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** – video

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God of sea and sky, you keep the earth flourishing.

**Many: We come before you weary from traveling through barren lands.**

One: Holy One, you give water that sustains body and spirit.

**Many: You hydrate us when we need, how we need.**

One: Miracle Worker, you caused a rock to crack and bring forth water.

**Many: Crack our hearts open and let your love flow from them like a spring.**

**HYMN** *"When Morning Gilds the Skies"*  
#86 NCH Trans. Edward Caswall

1 When morning gilds the skies,  
My heart awaking cries,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer,  
One purpose I declare:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

2 New strength comes night or day  
When from the heart we say,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let sin and evil fear,  
When this sweet chant they hear:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

3 Discordant humankind,  
In this your concord find,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around  
Ring joyous with the sound:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

4 Be this, while life is mine,  
My canticle divine,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this eternal song,  
Through all the ages long:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

### **INVOCATION** (All)

**Holy One, we are thankful for who you are and all that you are. Your presence is desired here. We take joy in knowing that you are as close to us as our next breath. We thirst for you. May we be filled to overflowing with your love. Amen**

### **PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

(All) **Enduring Presence, we confess that sometimes we question if you are among us or not. Sometimes we quarrel with you when we are tested. These are the moments when our outlook needs transformation. You are gracious in looking beyond our faults to see our needs and meet them. Thank you for your immeasurable grace. Amen.**

### **WORDS OF GRACE** (Pastor)

New mercies are granted daily and every day we have an opportunity to be changed forever and for good. Amen.

### **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**

**Be this, while life is mine,  
My canticle divine,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this the eternal song.  
Through all the ages long:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Barb Shoemaker

#### **Exodus 17:1-7**

17From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

#### **Romans 5:1-11**

5Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

#### **John 4:5-26**

<sup>5</sup>So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

<sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

**SERMON**      *“Living Water”*      Pastor Jim

**SOLO/SONG**      *“When, like the Woman at the Well”*

#196 NCH      Edith Sinclair Downing

**Soloist – Joe Anderson** (congregation not singing)

1 When, like the woman at the well,  
I lived with broken dreams,  
Christ came to me, good news to tell,  
Of every living streams.

2 Christ knew heart, my wayward ways,  
Yet gave me hope, not fear.  
The God I once thought far away,  
I could approach, draw near.

3 I learned I could forever live  
And worship God aright,  
Could trust the power the Spirit gives  
To guide me in truth’s light.

4 Each day I lift my cup above,  
And I again receive  
The living water of God’s love,  
Revealed for my belief.

5 Since now I am in grace immersed,  
Set free, forgiven, whole,  
I share with those who are a thirst  
The well-springs of my soul!

## **MORNING PRAYERS**

**PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR** (All)

**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 gives of Godself freely, so let us give freely to God.  
Let us bring gifts that sustain the life of the kin-dom.  
May these resources be more than enough. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING** (All)

**Fount of Blessing, receive our gifts in the joy that we give them. Be it time, tithe, or talent, it all comes from you. Thank you for blessing us to be a blessing to you and each other. Amen.**

**HYMN**      *“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”*

#18 NCH

Wm. Williams

**1 Guide me, O my great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more,  
feed me till I want no more.**

**2 Open now the crystal fountain,  
where the healing waters flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
ever be my strength and shield,  
ever be my strength and shield.**

**3 When I reach the River Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on heaven's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever sing to you,  
I will ever sing to you.**

## **BENEDICTION**

As you depart this space, remember that the God who caused water to flow from a rock is the same God who walks with you. Go forth with the assurance that in the midst of a chaotic world something good can happen and something good will happen. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

\* Worship resources for today were written by Rev. Teña T. Nock, Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ.

### 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 March 12, 2023

<https://youtu.be/axQ8qyN2BgQ>

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tuesday, March 14th –**

**1 PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14<sup>th</sup> Street**

\*every week at Marge Goetsch's home

**4 PM – Deacons Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> –**

**Lenten Services at UCC**

**6 PM soup supper    7 PM Worship**

#### Hosting Coffee Fellowship

March 12 –

March 19 – H & K Mathis

March 26 – Vine & Burch

April 2 – Carole Romens

April 9 –

April 16-

We need your help - Please sign up on bulletin board at rear of church for hosting coffee fellowship.

We will be receiving our  
**One Great Hour of Sharing**  
offering on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Envelopes are available in the pews.



### UCC Called to Care Team

UCC is forming a member's care-giving group with the intention to connect with members in need. If you know a member who could benefit from a visit from another member, please share this person's name with Janice Miller at 715-743-2147 or [neillsvilleuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:neillsvilleuccoffice@gmail.com) or if you are interested in joining this group please contact the above.



*Meal Giveaway*

*March 19, 2023*

*11:00-11:15 AM*

*United Church of Christ-Neillsville  
515 West Second Street*