

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 26, 2023**  
United Church of Christ, Neillsville  
Pastor Sue Vornholt

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**PRELUDE** *“Sweet Hour of Prayer” with “Nocturne”*

Mendelssohn arr. Anna Laura Page

Karen Mohr

**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**

One: Breath of Life, you animate us.

**All: We come before you seeking revival from within.**

One: Holy One, when you speak, great things happen.

**All: Empower us to make great things happen.**

**HYMN** *“Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”*

#73 NCH Louise Ruspini

**1 Enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**Enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**Today will be a joyful day;  
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**2 Open yourself to the song.**

**Open yourself to the song.**

**Today will be a joyful day;  
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**3 Open your hearts ev'ryone.**

**Open your hearts ev'ryone.**

**Today will be a joyful day;  
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**4 Don't be afraid of some change.**

**Don't be afraid of some change.**

**Today will be a joyful day;  
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**5 Enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**Enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**Today will be a joyful day;  
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**OPENING PRAYER** (Pastor)

Life giver, come and revive us again. Indwell us with your spirit and let our souls awake to joy. We come boldly that you might breathe on us. May what we experience with you today change us forever and for better. 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)

**Mender of Hearts, we confess that sometimes in our brokenness, we cause brokenness in others. Sometimes in our woundedness, we wound others. In these despairing moments, we need healing and restoration. We give thanks that we are never beyond your reach or grace. Amen**

**WORDS OF GRACE** (Pastor)

God's mercy makes wholeness possible and our wholeness is rooted in becoming who we are meant to be- living sanctuaries. Amen

## **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**

**John 11:1-45**

11 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." <sup>4</sup> When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, <sup>7</sup> and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." <sup>8</sup> "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. <sup>10</sup> It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light." <sup>11</sup> After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." <sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. <sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (also known as Didymus[a]) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles[b] from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

<sup>28</sup> After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." <sup>29</sup> When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." <sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said

this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”<sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

**MESSAGE** *“Lazarus, Meet Winnie”* Pastor Sue

**HYMN** *“Just As I Am”*

#207 NCH

Charlotte Elliott

**1** Just as I am, without one plea  
but that your blood was shed for me,  
and that you called inviting me,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

**2** Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

**3** Just as I am, you will receive,  
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because your promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

**4** Just as I am, your love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
Now to be yours, and yours alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

#### **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**

**God is the source of our supply. Let us give from what we have been supplied. May this supply meet every demand. Amen.**

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

*“Go My Children, with My Blessing”*

#82 NCH

Jaroslav J. Vajda

**1** Go, my children, with my blessing,  
never alone;  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,  
you are my own,  
In my love’s baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever,  
Go, my children, with my blessing,  
You are my own.

**2** Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
Grow in love and love by serving,  
Joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,  
Here with tender comfort stilled you;  
Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
Joyful and free.

#### **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**

You tube link for March 26, 2023  
<https://youtu.be/7s6SBM0cQ3o>

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Tuesday, March 28th –**

1 PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
\*every week at Marge Goetsch's home

**Wednesday, March 29th –**

6 PM – Soup Supper at UCC  
7 PM - Lenten Worship Service at UCC

We need your help for Lenten suppers, anyone can volunteer for set up, clean up or whatever needs to be done. Contact Janice in the office 715-743-2147

**APRIL NEWSLETTER** - Please have any articles into the office by Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **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!*



### **Hosting Coffee Fellowship**

March 26 – H & K Mathis

April 2 – Carole Romens

April 9 – EASTER no fellowship after worship

April 16-

April 23-

April 30-



**Place your order  
for Easter Lilies no  
later than April 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

If you wish to

dedicate your lilies, please let Janice know how you would like it listed in the bulletin. The cost of the lily is **\$17.00** and please make your check out to **UCC**. You make take your lily home after Easter worship service. Thank you for adding to the beauty of our church sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

### **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.