

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Sue Vornholt

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PRELUDE *"Sing to The Lord"* Lani Smith
Deon Spangler

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND 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

Sing a new song!

A springtime shout-out to life!

Sing praise to our joyful Easter God

Whose power brings new life out of death!

Immerse doubt and despair in the fountain of new birth

Find refreshment and strength for a future of hope!

For God has taken ordinary things

And made them extraordinary

Sing a New Song!

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God,

Nothing is beyond your power to transform!

In a gray dawn, you coax songs of Alleluia!

From the tombs of despair we take refuge in

You call us to wake up and work.

We praise you for this amazing day!

Come, Risen Christ,

in newness and hope on this Eastertide morning.

Amen

HYMN *"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"*
#73 NCH Louis 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 your ears to the song.
Open your ears 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.**

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)

**Redeeming God, with you there is always more life,
more hope, more joy.**

**When doubt assails us, and we fail to recognize you
at work in our lives, Lord, have mercy!**

**When fear impairs our faith, and our eyes and ears
and hearts do not know you, Christ, have mercy!**

**When anger and sorrow stop us from doing the risky
work of love, Lord, have mercy!**

WORDS OF GRACE (Pastor)

Within every kernel of doubt, there is a spark of life and hope. In those times when our faith falters, when we cannot recognize the presence of the Holy among us, God takes our faith and transforms it, patiently showing us the many ways Christ walks among us.

Look around you: as close as your own beating heart, and in the eyes of your nearest neighbor, grace abounds at the heart of all life.

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.

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

John 20:19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands.

Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON "The Gift of A Story" Pastor Sue Vornholt

HYMN

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

#252 NCH

Dorothy A. Thrupp

**1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need your tender care;
in your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are.**

**2 We are yours, in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.**

**3 Let us always seek your favor;
let us always do your will;
Jesus Christ, our only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.**

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 (All)

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 "Peace I Leave with You, My Friends"

#249 NCH Ray Repp

Refrain: Peace I leave with you, my friends,
Shalom, my peace, in all you do.
Peace I leave with you, my friends.
I give to you so you can give to others, too.

1 To share God's love is why I came,
To show God's kindness without end.
Go now, my friends, and do the same,
Until I come again. [Refrain]

2 Take my hand and be at peace;
The spirit of our love I send.
And with this love you will be free,
Until I come again. [Refrain]

3 With this love now all will know
That loneliness is at an end.
Rejoice, my friends, although I go,
For I will come again. [Refrain]

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



This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by the generosity of a "a faithful listener"

Youtube April 16, 2023

https://youtu.be/dTL_BBjGqXU

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, April 17th –
9 AM – Card Making

Tuesday, April 18th –
1 PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14th Street
*every week at Marge Goetsch's home
5 PM – Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, April 19th –
5 PM – Council Meeting

Hosting Coffee Fellowship

- April 16-
- April 23- Nancy & Kirk Rodman
- April 30- Susie Karl
- May 7- Nancy & Kirk Rodman
- May 14- Christian Ed
- May 21-
- May 28-



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



TODAY

**APRIL 16, 2023
11:00-11:15 AM**

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST-NEILLSVILLE
515 WEST SECOND STREET**