

Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Sue Vornholt

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PRELUDE "Assurance" John Ness Beck
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Shared Life and Service

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

Travelers on the Way, what shall we do?

We shall praise God,

**who hears our prayers, who draws near to us,
and brings new life out of death.**

Dear Ones, how shall we live?

**With the confidence of God's beloved children,
with security and joy of God's saving grace.**

Friends old and new, what is the promise?

New life, forgiveness of sin, the Spirit as a gift!

Beloved Siblings, how shall we praise?

**We lift our voices and our hearts in love, thanks, and
praise!**

We will praise the Lord as long as we live!

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we welcome your presence in our midst.
Share our joy and our thanks for the life you give **us!**
Shower us with your love! Amen!

HYMN "This is the Day"

#84 NCH Les Garrett

**1 This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.**

**2 This is the day, this is the day
Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day Jesus rose again,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again.**

**3 This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came,
we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day when the Spirit came.**

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)

**Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way,
we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your
wisdom and guidance.**

**We relish the joy which burns within our hearts
when you are with us.**

**Yet, sometimes we would cling to you,
hoard the blessings of relationship with you,
and not share your love with others.**

Forgive us, Dear One.

**Remind us that your love is to be carried throughout
the world.**

**Press us to share the hope and joy of your love,
so that someone who hungers for spiritual food
may be filled by our witness to your grace.
Shine the light of your spirit through us,
so that we may show you Way to those who long for
peace
and help to revive those in whom hope has died.**

WORDS OF GRACE (Pastor)

God may come to us, unrecognized, as a stranger.
The Risen Christ reaches out to us in unexpected ways
as we travel our own Emmaus roads.
May the word of our Stillspeaking God
continue to burn in our hearts.

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

Luke 24:13-35

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a
village called Emmaus, about seven miles from
Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these
things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and
discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with
them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing
him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing
with each other while you walk along?" They stood still,
looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was
Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in
Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken
place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What
things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of
Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word
before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief

priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to
death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was
the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is

now the third day since these things took
place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded
us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and
when they did not find his body there, they came back
and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were
with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women
had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵Then he said to
them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart
to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it
not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these
things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning
with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them
the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they
came near the village to which they were going, he
walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged
him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost
evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in
to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with
them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to
them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they
recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They
said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within
us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was
opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got
up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven
and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were
saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared
to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the
road, and how he had been made known to them in the
breaking of the bread.

SERMON "Meeting Jesus Again" Pastor Sue Vornholt

HYMN

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

#282 NCH

Arr. Joyce Fince Johnson

Refrain:

**Every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.**

**1 Upon the mountain my God spoke,
out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me; it looked so fine,
I asked my God if all were mine. [Refrain]**

**2 Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold,
it chills the body, but not the soul.**

**There's only one train on this track;
it runs to heaven, then right back. [Refrain]**

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 (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 *"God Be With You"*

#81 NCH Jeremiah Rankin

**1 God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain:

**Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**2 God be with you till we meet again;
Wings of shelter safely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]**

**3 God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,**

**Put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]**

**4 God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet 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 anonymously
"In Praise of Jesus Christ"**

YouTube for April 23, 2023

<https://youtu.be/893HLjZQWE0>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, April 23rd –

9 AM – (rescheduled from April 18th)

Trustees Meeting prior to worship

Tuesday, April 25th –

1 PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14th Street

*every week at Marge Goetsch's home

Hosting Coffee Fellowship

April 23- Nancy & Kirk Rodman

April 30- Susie Karl

May 7- Nancy & Kirk Rodman

May 14- Christian Ed

May 21-

May 28-

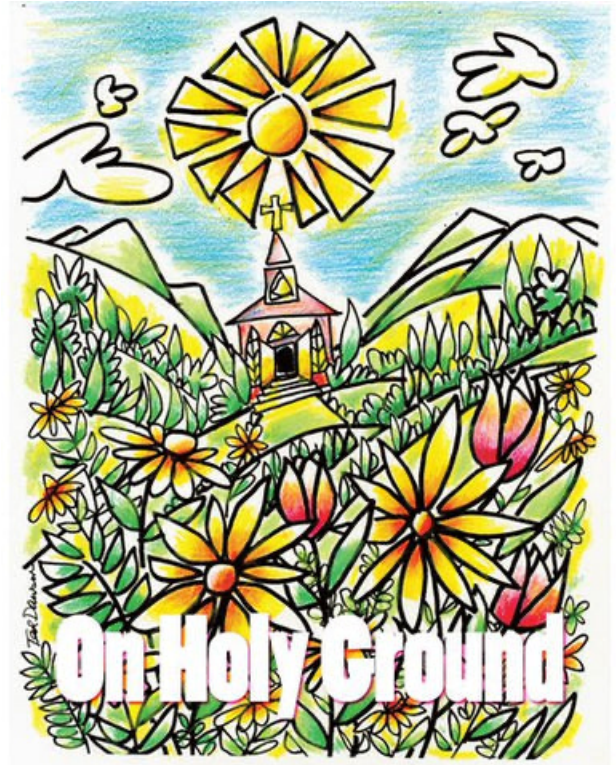


We need your help - Please sign up on bulletin board at rear of church for hosting coffee fellowship.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH – The Clark County



Choraliers will be visiting area churches including UCC. Please plan to join us for their musical performance during worship.



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

Strengthen The Church offering supports congregations across the UCC Church. God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways. Your generosity will plant new churches and awaken new ideas in existing churches developing the spiritual life in our youth and adults.

Strengthen The Church offering is received on Pentecost Sunday, May 28. Donations can be made using envelopes in the pews online or using VANCO. Thank you for your donations.