

Easter Sunday

April 9, 2023

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor James Mohr



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PRELUDE “Awake Thou Wintry Earth”

J.S. Bach

Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER ACCLAMATION (Taize’)

Jesus the Lord is risen! Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus the Lord is risen today! Alleluia, alleluia.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to our Good God whose unfailing love lasts forever!

Many: Give thanks to our Risen God whose unfailing love lives forever!

One: We gather together in the dawn of a new day. We look toward the tomb to seek the Enfleshed Word.

Many: The stone has been rolled away. The tomb is empty! Alleluia!

One: We find God alive in the searching, (in the garden, in our hope-filled spaces.

Many: Alleluia. Christ lives and finds us with unfailing love!

HYMN “Christ The Lord is Risen Today”

#233 NCH vs. 1-3

Charles Wesley

1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2 Let the Victor’s people sing, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

3 Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!

God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

INVOCATION (unison)

Resurrected God, you are the God of new beginnings, of new dawns and new mercies. Enter into our presence again. When we move toward the tomb, remind us that you come with life. When we despair at the world unfolding around us, assure us of your redemptive power. When we long for your voice, speak a word of hope, encouragement, and peace. May we reflect your image as resurrection people in covenant with you. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

(unison)

Amazing God, we know there is nothing you cannot overcome. We confess to our profound need of your love, strength, and mercy. Too often, we come toward the tomb resigned to the status quo. We anticipate the worst even when you are the provider of every good and perfect thing. We allow despair over the condition of our world to overwhelm us when you call us to follow you. Fortify us to live abundantly in your kingdom on earth. Transform us and breathe new life into us.

WORDS OF GRACE (Pastor)

The One who transformed death can and will certainly transform our lives. Jesus welcomes us on the journey to new life. No matter how many times our steps stray, we hide from hard things, or we betray the good news, God’s grace meets us with an unfailing love to guide us on the path of life abundant and everlasting. Receive the resurrection power of the One who was and is and is to come.

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

(v. 4 “Christ the Lord...”)

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

ANTHEM Choir

“Glory to the Risen Lamb!”

Jean Anne Shafferman/ Lloyd Larson

CHILDREN’S TIME “You Know My Name!”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Susie Karl is the liturgist

Jeremiah 31:1-6 Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18

Jeremiah 31:1-6

31At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. ²Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, ³the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you. ⁴Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again, you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. ⁵Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. ⁶For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: “Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.”

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

John 20:1-18

20Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father.

But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON "I Have Called You by Your Name"
Pastor Mohr

HYMN "I Come to the Garden Alone"
#237 NCH C. Austin Miles

1 I come to the garden alone,
while the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
the Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.

2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice
is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that he gave to me
within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]

3 I'd stay in the garden with Him
though the night around me be falling;
But he bids me go; through the voice of woe
his voice to me is calling. [Refrain]

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Colossians 3:1-2 states, "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." In the giving of our gifts, we seek the kingdom, we trust in the Provider, and we follow in the way of Jesus.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

Giving God, receive this portion of the gifts you have given to us. May our time, treasure, and talent be magnified and multiplied for your glory. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Consecration of the Elements

Lord's Prayer

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 "Thine is the Glory"

#139 UCC Red hymnal James Montgomery

1 Thine is the glory, Risen conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death has won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.

Refrain: Thine is the glory, Risen conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.

2 Lo! Jesus meets thee. Risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth; death has lost its sting. [Refrain]

3 No more we doubt thee, Glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought without thee; Aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors,
Through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

Like the disciples on the day of Resurrection

May we go toward the tomb

A place seemingly devoid of life

May we find life in all its glory

And spread the news

That life prevails, That life redeems

And that love never fails.

Go in peace with resurrection purpose to love God, God's children, and God's creation. Amen.

*A portion of this liturgy was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

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 April 9, 2023

<https://youtu.be/KJ93jAUIE-I>

**This week's radio broadcast
is in honor of Gordon & Faith Vine
sponsored by their children,
Jane Nelson, Virginia Fennema,
Paul Vine, Jeff Vine, Kris Kirschoffer**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, April 11th –

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

Wednesday, April 12th –

5 PM - Deacons Meeting

Thursday, April 13th –

**No Circle of Friends Meeting in PM
Celebration of Life honoring Betty Opelt
1-2 PM – visitation
2 PM – service**



Thank you to those who ordered lilies.
Please take your lily home following
the Easter worship service.

Easter Lilies Given By:

Doris Bakker - in honor of Neillsville UCC
Rick Buchsteiner
- in memory of sister, Karen Joe Miller

Jim & Karen Mohr – in honor of our parents,
– George & Dorothy Mohr and Roy & Van Nelson

Tim & Cheryl Steinbach
– in memory of Tim's brothers, Chuckie and Jerry Steinbach
– in honor of Cheryl's parents, Wally & Pat Garbisch
– In honor of grandchildren Kaynen, Kroix, Kate and Lexi

Joe & Debbie Holman – in loving memory of family & friends
Leslie Hemp- Buchholz

– in memory of granddaughter, Haddie Alyn Hemp

Howie & Kathy Mathis- in loving honor of our wonderful
family both past and present

Paul Vine & Kelley Burch -
– in honor of parents, Gordon & Faith Vine

Wayne & JoAnn Voss –
– in memory of family and friends gone before us.

Janice Miller – in memory of parents, Clarence & Anita Miller

Hosting Coffee Fellowship

**April 9 – EASTER – no
fellowship following worship**

April 16-

April 23- Nancy & Kirk Rodman

April 30- Susie Karl

May 7- Nancy & Kirk Rodman

May 14-

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



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

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