

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE *"Prelude and Fugue in C"* J.S. Bach
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION MOMENT "STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH"

– video & slide

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Jesus the Lord is risen!

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus the Lord is risen today!

Alleluia, alleluia. (2 times)

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Leader: Light Print - People: Bold Print)

We are gathered in the presence of the risen Christ, who remains with us forever.

When we abide in the love of Christ, love, joy, and peace grow.

We are rooted in Christ's love that we may bear these fruits together with all God's people.

With the faithful of every race, tribe, people, and nation we proclaim:

Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, and might be to God for ever and ever.

Amen.

HYMN *"For the Beauty of the Earth"*
#28 NCH St. 1-3 Follitt Sandford Pierpoint
St. 4 Miriam Therese Winter

**1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the splendor of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.**

Refrain:

**God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light, [Refrain]**

**3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]**

**4 For the good that love inspires,
for a world where none exclude,
for a faith that never tires,
And for every heart renewed. [Refrain]**

CALL TO CONFESSION (Pastor)

With all the signs of new life in Christ around us, we still cling to our old ways. Let us confess our sin to God and to one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

When we do not accept as our sisters and brothers in Christ those who are different from us, forgive us, O God.

When we oppose you by opposing those who disrupt our routines and challenge our assumptions, forgive us O God.

When we willfully disobey you and lose faith in your future, forgive us O God.

God, in your mercy, restore us to newness of life. Bind together your church universal through the coming of your Holy Spirit.

Empower us to witness with courage to the presence of Jesus Christ among us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Pastor)

Take heart: God's Spirit empowers us to move from the ways of death to the ways of new life. Our sins are forgiven. Let us forgive one another and give ourselves to one another in the joyful community of the risen Christ. 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."

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Jesus the Lord is risen!

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus the Lord is risen today!

Alleluia, alleluia. (2 times)

A WORD WITH THE CHILDREN

A TIME WITH THE GRADUATES

PSALTER READING

Psalm 68:1-10

¹Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.

²As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.

³But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—his name is the Lord— be exultant before him.

⁵Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

⁶God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.

⁷O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, Selah

⁸the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

⁹Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished;

¹⁰your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

SECOND LESSON

Acts 1:6-14

The Ascension of Jesus

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of[a] James. 14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me,

because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

SERMON *"Community of Prayer"* Pastor Jim

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

United Church Statement of Faith (p. 885 in hymnal)

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.
Amen.**

HYMN *"Sweet Hour of Prayer"*

#505 NCH Wm. Walford

**1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Maker's throne
let all my needs and wants be known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by your return, sweet hour of prayer!**

**2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for your return!
With them I hasten to the place
where I would know my Savior's face,
And gladly take my station there,
and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!**

**3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
whose wings shall my petition bear
to One whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since I'm bid to seek God's face,
believe God's word, and trust God's grace,
I'll cast away my every care,
and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!**

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**

THE OFFERING SERVICE (Pastor)

Scriptural Sentence

Prayer of Dedication

HYMN "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" Doris Akers
#293 NCH

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain:

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been
revived, When we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to stay with Jesus all the way." [Refrain]

COMMISSIONING AND 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**

Youtube for May 21, 2023

<https://youtu.be/8ihLQhXk-gg>

**This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored by
Jim and Rosie Repinski
"in praise of Jesus Christ"**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, May 20th –

8:30 AM – Change of Seasons

-work project

(meet at St. Mary's for breakfast)

Today – May 21st

10 AM – Baccalaureate Sunday recognizing
our graduates

-Cookout/Meal Give Away following
worship

Tuesday, May 23rd –

1 PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14th Street

*every week at Marge Goetsch's home

Hosting Coffee Fellowship

May 21 – Baccalaureate Reception/ &Cook Out

May 28 –

June 4 -

June 11 –

June 18 –

June 25 -

We need your help for hosting coffee fellowship –

Please sign up on bulletin board at rear of church.



TODAY

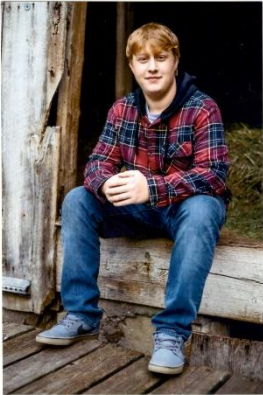
/ Meal Give Away
Sunday, May 21st
after worship



OUR GRADUATES

... do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight,
preserve sound judgement and discretion;
they will be life for you...
Proverbs 3:21-22

High School Graduates-



Alex Northup – working for the family business, Grand Flooring & Design and D & C Construction
Son of Karen & David Northup



Delaney Rochester – plans to attend University of Wisconsin – Madison for Nursing
Daughter of Ricky & Clarissa Rochester



Dante Erickson – plans to enter the workforce and entrepreneurship
Son of Chad & Lacey Erickson



Derek Zschernitz - is working for Stanek Electric and will be doing an Internship for Electrician post-graduation
Son of Wendy & Travis Zschernitz



Mackenzie Hediger – plans on attending Chippewa Valley Technical College and studying Accounting
Daughter of Crispin & Lisa Hediger



College Graduate -

Dr. Brett Charles Sigurdson – graduating with a PhD in English Literature from the University of Minnesota
Son of Wendy & Craig Sigurdson