

Pentecost Sunday

May 28, 2023

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"

Kristina Langlois

Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PENTECOST SUNDAY - "The Birthday of the Church"

MISSION MOMENT PRAYER –

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When the day of Pentecost had come, the
disciples were all together in one place.

**All: Today, followers of the Way gather in many
places,**

One: From Jerusalem to Galilee, from Pago Pago to
Apia.

**All: From Rome to Arabia, from Las Vegas to
Cleveland.**

One: God's Spirit still blows like a mighty wind

All: Breathing new life into the sails of our canoes.

One: God's Spirit still burns like tongues of flame

**All: Dancing over the heads of our Toa* [TOH-ah]
(brave ones).**

One: God's Spirit still flows like currents of living water

All: Connecting hearts and islands of all believers.

One: Praise God! Viia le Atua! [vee-EE-ah leh ah-TOO-
ah]

All: Viia le Atua! Praise God!

**All: Let us worship God, from whom all life's blessings
flow!**

HYMN "On Pentecost They Gathered"

#272 NCH Jane Parker Huber

**1 On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
a band of Christ's disciples to worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
and tongues of fire aglowing inspired each person there.**

**2 The people all around them were startled and amazed
to understand their language, as God in Christ they praised.
What universal message, what great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.**

**3 God pours the Holy Spirit on all who would believe,
on women, men, and children who would God's grace
receive.
That Spirit knows no limit, bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming, responds in every hour.**

**4 O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us hearts to listen and tongues aflame with praise,
so folk of every nation glad songs of joy shall raise.**

INVOCATION (all)

**O Holy Spirit, come and blow through this
gathering space as Mighty Wind as you did with
the apostles at the beginning of the Church. Pour
your Spirit upon us all, both colonized and
colonizer, of all ages, all genders, to speak your
words, see your vision, dream your dreams toward
your great and glorious day when everyone who
calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Flow
like rivers of living water from the hearts of
believers through the songs of praise, words of
worship, and prayers of devotion. Amen!**

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION (all)

**Dear God, le Atua e (leh ah-TOO-ah eh) God of
oceans and land and all life contained therein. You
created this world by the power of your word. By
your own hands and breath, you formed
humankind in every conceivable shade of brown.**

You gave us islands and continents as a gift and charged us to be the stewards of what you have made.

Creator God, we have failed you and abused your gift to us. We have offended you and defiled your creation, including seeing fellow human beings as being less than created in your very image. Forgive us for betraying your trust. Forgive us for our greed and arrogance.

Hear the cries of islands drowning in the rising seas, oceans that rise with the melting of the ice.

Hear the cries of our world in distress through storm and drought.

God of Life, heal your wounded earth. Embolden us to choose the path that leads to life. so that we may renew your Shalom in land, sea, and sky. This we ask in the name of the one who came that we way have life in abundance, your Son, our Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE (Pastor)

Le alofa o le Atua (leh ah-LOW-fah oh leh ah-TOO-ah), God's love does not belong to one person or group of people. God's love and forgiveness is available to all, even those who do not ask for it. You can also be agents of God's love and healing, so let us strive to receive and give this gift of God's restoration with Creation and with each other. Be God's love and healing for people and planet. 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."

PRAISE RESPONSE "Halleluja"

#236 NCH

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PSALTER READING

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

²⁴O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵Yonder is the sea, great and wide, it is teeming with countless creatures, living things both small and great.

²⁶There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

²⁷These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

²⁸when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³⁰When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹May the glory of God endure forever; may God rejoice in God's works—

³²God who looks on the earth and it trembles, God who touches the mountains and they smoke.

³³I will sing to God as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

³⁴May my meditation be pleasing to God, for in God do I rejoice.

³⁵Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless God, O my soul. Praise be to God!

GOSPEL LESSONS

John 7:37-39 ³⁷On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 20:19-23 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."

PENTECOST LESSON

Acts 2:1-21

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

Peter Addresses the Crowd

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

SERMON "The Mood of Pentecost" Pastor Jim

RESPONSE TO THE WORD (All)

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 "Many Are the Lightbeams" Trs. David Lewis
#163 NCH

**1 Many the light-beams from the one light,
Our one light is Jesus.**

**Many are the light-beams from the one light;
We are one in Christ.**

**2 Many are the branches of the one tree.
Our one tree is Jesus.**

**Many are the branches of the one tree;
We are one in Christ.**

**3 Many are the gifts given, love is all one.
Love's the gift of Jesus.**

**Many are the gifts given, love is all one;
We are one in Christ.**

**4 Many ways to serve God, the Spirit it is one;
Servant spirit of Jesus.
Many ways to serve God, the Spirit it is one;
We are one in Christ.**

**5 Many are the members, the body is one;
Members all of Jesus.
Many are the members, the body is one;
We are one in Christ.**

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**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY (Pastor)

At the birth of the Church, all who believed were together and had all things in common: they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. The work of le Agaga Paia (leh Ah-NGA-nga Pah-EE-ah), the Holy Spirit, flows like living water from the hearts of believers. Shall our confidence in the mission of our congregation and the wider church also overflow freely with the generosity of the faithful? May each of our families give without measure so that the larger family of faith may be a vessel of Good News to the world!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (All)

Heavenly God, even as the first believers did in the early church, we lay our gifts at the feet of the apostles. May these gifts support the ministry of our congregation as well as strengthen the wider United Church of Christ and ecclesial partner, the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa, as well as the whole of the Samoan ecclesial family here and everywhere. Give our leaders gifts of discernment for wise use of these resources which we dedicate to you today. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you! Amen.

HYMN *"My Eyes Have Seen the Glory"*
Julia Ward Howe

#610 NCH vs. 1-2, 4

**1 My eyes have seen the glory
of the coming of the Lord,
who is trampling out the vintage
where the grapes of wrath are stored,
And has loosed the fateful lightning
of a terrible swift sword;
God's truth is marching on.**

Refrain:

**Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
God's truth is marching on.**

**2 God has been there in the watch-fires
of a hundred circling camps,
where they built a sacred altar
in the evening dews and damps;
I can read the righteous sentence
by the dim and flaring lamps;
God's day is marching on. [Refrain]**

**4 In the beauty of the lilies
Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in whose bosom
that transfigures you and me;
As Christ died to make us holy,
let us die to make all free;
While God is marching on. [Refrain]**

BENEDICTION (Pastor)

Dear Siblings, Sisters and Brothers, God's Holy Spirit goes with you, blows with you, and flows with you. So let us be as Vai Ola, Living Water, flowing from within this worship service out to a thirsty world. Amene.

POSTLUDE

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Portions of this service were written by Rev. Mikey Kelemete, Senior Pastor of Faaaliga o le Alofa (Vision of Grace) Church in Las Vegas, Nevada, affiliated with both the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (Ekalesia Faapotopotoga Kerisiano Amerika Samoa) and the United Church of Christ and Rev. Samuelu "Sam" Tialavea, Associate Pastor of Faaaliga o le Alofa. Pastor Sam also serves as secretary for United Samoan Ministries of the UCC and in the Southern California Nevada Conference as Vice-Moderator for the Eastern Association as well as secretary for SCN Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries.

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 28, 2023

<https://youtu.be/0ps66ybQNAY>

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, May 28th -

10 AM – Caregivers Meeting after worship

Tuesday, May 30th –

1 PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14th Street

***every week at Marge Goetsch's home**

Hosting Coffee Fellowship

May 28 – WE WILL TEMPORARILY SUSPEND

June 4 - COFFEE FELLOWSHIP **STARTING MAY 28TH**

June 11 – THRU AUGUST DUE TO SUMMER ACTIVITIES

June 18 – AND LACK OF VOLUNTEERS

June 25 - WE WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

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



**Come join the fun
at Neillville
United Church of
Christ's Vacation
Bible School**

WHEN: SATURDAY, JUNE 3rd, 2023 - 9 AM until 2 PM

LOCATION: Lower parking lot at UCC/Tock Field Shelter



**Starting May 28th
thru September 4th
Sunday worship
changes to 9 AM.**

On Holy Ground

TODAY - The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the commitment of all settings of the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC.

The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations as we work to become a multi-cultural/multi-racial, accessible to all Christian movement.

