

Fifth Sunday of Easter - Communion

May 7, 2023

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Sue Vornholt

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PRELUDE

Holly Pisors

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

Jesus said, "I go and prepare a place for you, and I will come again."

We gather together from many places to know your presence and your love, now and always.

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. If you know me, you know God."

We pray to know you more deeply, that we may know God more intimately, now and always.

Jesus said, "Ask me for anything, and I will do it."

Help us to ask for the right things, Lord Jesus Christ, that we may fulfill your will, now and always.

Jesus said, "Believe in me, and Follow me."

Help us to worship you fully - believing and following -now and always!

INVOCATION

Ever-gracious, Way-Making God, we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit.

You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking, but with milk of your truth.

You have made us with strength and hope, and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship.

You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come,

Meet us here, we pray, that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. Amen

HYMN *"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"*
#282 NCH

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]**

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)

Righteous God, we confess with sorrow that we often forget who has given us light, who has made our garden grow with waters of love. We forget your living word and move off your paths to serve our own worldly desires.

We leave your cultivated field to venture out into the wilderness on our own. We quarrel with one another trying to decide 'who is the greatest'.

We make our own faces the benchmark for all faces.

Help us to remember Jesus, reconciling the whole variegated world in himself.

WORDS OF GRACE (Pastor)

Thank you for calling us back, for never giving up on us when we turn aside, for always loving us, even when we forget who we are and who you are. We know you, as the greatest Gardener of all, who has promised always to replant us in flourishing fields.

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

1Peter 2:4-10

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a

holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

SERMON "Faith Foundation" Pastor Sue Vornholt

HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together"

#330 NCH

**1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.**

Refrain:

**When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.**

**2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]**

**3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]**

COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: God be with you

All: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God

Let us give thanks to God most high.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life... With the faithful in every place and time, **we praise with joy in your holy name.**

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant at the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made.

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal Jesus took bread and after giving thanks to you, broke bread, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said, "This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

By eating bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and may we recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all whom Christ died. Amen

Through the broken bread, we participate in the Body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life of Christ. Eat this, for it is the body of Christ broken for you.

The body of Christ, the living bread.

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Drink this, for it is the seal of the new covenant, my poured-out life.

Whenever you do these things, remember me.

Let us pray. We thank you loving God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the received Christ's gifts.

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)

Holy God, we have received so much blessing from You to walk through this past week. We are grateful for the blessings You have given us, and we return some of them to you. Please use it for your work. In Jesus Christ's name. Amen

CLOSING HYMN "Go My Children, with My Blessing"

#82 NCH Jaroslav J. Vajda

**1 Go my children with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children with my blessing, you are my own.**

**2 Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
Here with tender comfort stilled you,
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**

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 Frances Short
in memory of
Kenneth Short
and our parents.



Youtube for May 7, 2023
<https://youtu.be/JsLKS7Vy2sY>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, May 9th –

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

Wednesday, May 10th –

5 PM – Deacons Meeting

Thursday, May 11th –

1:30 PM – Circle of Friends Meeting

Hosting Coffee Fellowship

May 7- Nancy & Kirk Rodman

May 14- Christian Ed

May 21-

May 28-

June 4-

June 11-



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

Sunday, May 7th



MAY 21, 2023
BACCALAUREATE
Sunday
10:00 AM SERVICE
PLEASE COME TO
CONGRATULATE
OUR GRADUATES

FREE COMMUNITY
PICNIC
UCC-NEILLSVILLE
515 WEST 2ND STREET
FELLOWSHIP HALL
MAY 21, 2023 11:00 AM-12:30 PM
TAKEOUTS WILL BE AVAILABLE