

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 2, 2023
United Church of Christ, Neillsville
Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE *“America, the Beautiful”*
Lani Smith Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Light Print – People: Bold Print

Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me.”

We welcome you, Christ Jesus.

As Christians, we are asked to open our hearts to all humanity.

We welcome you, Christ Jesus.

As believers, we are expected to care for one another.

We welcome you, Christ Jesus.

HYMN *“All Are Welcome”* Marty Haugen

**1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.**

**2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
Where all God’s children dare to seek
to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.**

**3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ, the feast that frees us,
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.**

**4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they’ve known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God’s face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.**

**5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.**

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE)

Sometimes we feel like God is testing us, and we do not understand what is going on.

Yet we will trust in God, who never lets us down.

Sometimes we feel lost, alone, abandoned, as if no one cares about us.

Yet we will trust in God, who never lets us down.

Sometimes we are confused about the meaning of life and do not know which way to turn.

Yet we will trust in God, who never lets us down.

Sometimes, someone stretches out a hand to welcome us, and we are reminded that, whenever we turn to God, God welcomes us with outstretched arms.

Thanks be to God! 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 (sung twice)

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Hallelujah, hallelujah.

CHILDREN’S TIME “A Welcome Sign”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 22:1-14

22After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ²He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.”

³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” ⁶Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together. ⁹When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

¹¹But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

Matthew 10:40-42

⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

SERMON “The Little Quiz and the Big Test”

Pastor Jim

A TEST LITANY

When the pastor says “So we pray...”

the congregation responds

“Lead us not into temptation.”

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY (Pastor)

The generous life imagines the possibilities of God’s love realized through the sharing of our gifts.

Generosity glorifies God and connects us as neighbors. When we give of our time, talent, and treasure, we declare our trust in the abundance of God’s continuing creative acts and participate in the realization of God’s reign on earth.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING (All)

God of Heaven and Earth, receive our gifts as a deposit of trust in your faithfulness and a seed of hope for the flourishing of your love.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" Fred Kaan
#347 NCH

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy;
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. [Refrain]

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! [Refrain]

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

This is the joyful feast
of the people of God,
Men and women,
youth and children
come from the east and the west,
from the north and the south,
and gather about Christ's table.

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Consecration of the Elements

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

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.

CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS FOR HOME DISTRIBUTION

Called to Care participants are invited to come forward
with the elements for home distribution.

HYMN *"America, the Beautiful"* Katharine Lee Bates

1 O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

2 O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law.

3 O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And ev'ry gain divine.

4 O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

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 Sunday, July 2, 2023

<https://youtube.com/live/MIgOnH-uVCM?feature=share>

This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored anonymously
in memory of
Paul and Mike Quicker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, July 3rd -

9 AM - Circle of Friends - card making

Tuesday, July 4th -

NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

~~1 PM - Bible Study - 510 W 14th Street~~

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



Hosting Coffee Fellowship



IS SUSPENDED THRU
THE SUMMER MONTHS -
will start again in
September

