

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Sue Vornholt

All music in this service copied and streamed under
OneLicense.net A-723900 and CCLI License #
20913817

PRELUDE *"Fanfare" (Theme from Masterpiece Theatre)*
Jean Joseph Mouret Deon Spangler

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

What joy we feel when we are called together to
celebrate God's love.

God's love flows through our lives!

This is what it means to be the body of Christ!

This is what it means to be faithful witnesses to God.

Let us rejoice on this day!

Lord, we thank you for the blessings you pour on us.

Amen

GATHERING PRAYER (All)

**Lord, be with us today as we come to you from all
life's circumstances. Give us courage and strength
and fill us with your love and grace that we may
serve you effectively and fully. Amen**

HYMN *"I Woke Up this Morning"*

#85 NCH Jeffrey Radford

**1 I woke up this morning with my mind
(Hallelujah) stayed on Jesus,
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,
woke up this morning with my mind
(Hallelujah) stayed on Jesus,
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.**

**2 Singing and praying with my mind
(Hallelujah) stayed on Jesus,
Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Singing and praying with my mind
(Hallelujah) stayed on Jesus,
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (All)

**God of infinite mercy and love, we come before you
this day, knowing that we have not always been
faithful to what you would have us do. We have too
often turned our backs on those in need, choosing
not to hear their cries. Forgive us, O Lord. We know
that you do not want us to behave in this way. Your
love and mercy, so generously showered over us,
should be a beacon to guide our own actions. We
make no excuses, for none would suffice. We ask
your forgiveness and blessing, turning us again
around and placing us on the path of compassion and
peace. This prayer we offer in Jesus' name. Amen**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's love is greater than our understanding and our
comprehension. That love is continually given to each
and every one of us each day. Rejoice! God's forgiving
love is poured out for you now and always. Amen

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

Psalm 67

¹May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah

²that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

⁷May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Matthew 15: 10-20

¹⁰Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes

into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Matthew 15: 21-28

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.



SERMON "A Faith That Won't Give Up" Pastor Sue

HYMN "This Is A Day of New Beginnings" T Troeger
#417 NCH vs 1-3, vs 4 is Refrain

**1 This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.**

Refrain:

**Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new,
our God is making all things new.**

**2 For by the life and death of Jesus,
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of diff'rence,
as faith and hope are born again. [Refrain]**

**3 Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find. [Refrain]**

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)

As God has so richly blessed us, let us return a portion
of these blessings to God, asking that these gifts may be
used in service to others through the ministries and
mission of this church. Let us receive our morning
offering.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING (All)

**God of abundance and joy, we thank you for the many
blessings you have poured on our lives. Receive these
gifts, lovingly given, and bless them in your service.
Amen**

CLOSING HYMN *"God Be With You"*

#81 NCH Jeremiah E. Rankin

**1 God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain:

**Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**2 God be with you till we meet again;
Wings of shelter safely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]**

**3 God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]**

**4 God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]**

BENEDICTION

Depart from here renewed in your worship, restored in
your mercy, and revitalized in your faith. May you meet
the days ahead with vigour and determination and the
confidence of God's love planted deep in your heart
where it might grow.

POSTLUDE

JOYS AND CONCERNS



Hosting Coffee Fellowship
IS SUSPENDED THRU
THE SUMMER
MONTHS –
will start again in
September

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 Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen
in celebration of
their son, Brad & Natalie Buddenhagen's
29th anniversary.

YouTube link for August 20th, 2023
<https://youtube.com/live/grALdzz6bb4>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, August 21st –
-9 AM – Card Making

Tuesday, August 22nd –
-1 PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14th Street
***every week at Marge Goetsch's home**



August 20, 2023

UCC - Neillsville

515 West Second Street

10:00-10:15 AM

Donated by St. Mary's - Neillsville

