

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - Communion

August 6, 2023

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Sue Vornholt

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PRELUDE

"Praise and Thanksgiving"

Dale Wood

Karen Mohr

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

Beloved disciples, welcome. Some of us come weary
and hungry, while others come
rested and content. Still others come ready to wrestle
with the questions that keep us up
at night. No matter how you enter this space, we say,

Come, let us worship God together!

Together, we notice the fatigue we carry, the
exhaustion that comes from our hunger for
care and connection with one another and with God.

Yet, when God says to feed one
another, we answer,

We have nothing but...

Together, we feel the unrest and turmoil of grappling
with the unknown, unsure whether
we are fighting for everyone's wellbeing or merely our
own stability. Yet, when God tells
us to start by loving God and our neighbors, we
answer,

We have nothing but...

Together, then, let us wrestle with our hungers that
we may be transformed into people
who seek and find God all around us, so that when
God calls us to feed the hungry and
struggle for those in need of help, we answer,

In you, we have everything. Use us as you will.

Amen

OPENING PRAYER (All)

God,

**You have called us into a whole-hearted
relationship with You.**

**You've asked us to leave behind all we possess
and live out our faith with passion and integrity.
We thank You for the deep love You have shown
toward us.**

**Forgive us when we take our relationship with You
for granted, when we let the fire of our early
commitment cool, and allow other things to take
priority in our lives.**

**Give us strength to hold on to You no matter what
comes our way.**

**Give us courage to wrestle honestly with the
things we don't understand;
to continually work out our salvation with fear and
trembling,
to grapple daily with what it means to faithfully
follow You.**

We are Your people, chosen and named by You.

**Grant us Your continued blessing
and mark us with Your love, as we seek to live as
Your disciples in the world.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen

HYMN *“Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”*

#73 NCH Louise Ruspini

**1 Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day;
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**2 Open yourself to the song.
Open yourself to the song.
Today will be a joyful day;
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**3 Open your hearts everyone.
Open your hearts everyone.
Today will be a joyful day;
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**4 Don't be afraid of some change.
Don't be afraid of some change.
Today will be a joyful day;
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**5 Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day;
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

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

Isaiah 55:1-5

55Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Matthew 14:13-21

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

SERMON *“The Miraculous Feeding”* Pastor Sue

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]

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

One: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

All: **In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this lifegiving bread.**

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

Pastor: 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.

All: **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 is the giver of life, Christ is the Gift sent to share our life, and the Holy Spirit the power that enables us to continue in generosity, justice and joy. Let us open our hearts and our lives to God and one another.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

(All) **As we share what we have received from your hand, O God, our Lives are opened to appreciate and enjoy more of your Blessings. We give in response to your generosity. May all who desire your love, peace, and joy receive it through your faithfulness and our efforts. We dedicate all we offer in the name of Jesus. 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

Go today full of God's love and ready to notice God in your neighbors' hungers. Go today at rest in God and ready to struggle in loving service for your neighbors. And as you go, may you find the face of God in the hungering, feeding, wrestling, and resting. Amen

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 "a faithful listener".



YouTube link for August 6th, 2023
<https://youtube.com/live/ZV9zmjg3uNQ>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Monday, August 7th –
-9 AM – Card Making**

**Tuesday, August 8th –
-1 PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14th Street
*every week at Marge Goetsch's home
-5 PM – Trustees Meeting**

**Thursday, August 10th –
-1:30 PM – Circle of Friends Meeting**



**August 20, 2023
UCC - Neillsville
515 West Second Street
10:00-10:15 AM**

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