

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Sue Vornholt

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PRELUDE *"Canon in D"* Johann Pachelbel
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 (inspired by Matthew 20:1-16)

One: Our eyes are heavy. Our hope is soaring. We
wait in the marketplace.

Our God is gracious.

One: Our feet are tired. Our expectations rise. We
are hired first.

Our God is merciful.

One: Our backs are sore. Our spirits are low. We are
paid last.

Our God is slow to anger.

One: Our tempers flare. Our anger rages. We take
what belongs to us.

Our God abounds in steadfast love.

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

**3 Open your hearts ev'ryone.
Open your hearts ev'ryone.
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.**

OPENING PRAYER (All)

**Lord of summer sunshine and autumn harvest, be
with us this day as we gather to encounter your word
and your way for us. Remind us that we can place our
trust in your eternal love. Enable us to be more
effective in our witness to that love by word and
deed. Guide our steps and pick us up when we falter.
Dust us off and place us on the pathways of grace
and service. These things we pray in Jesus' name.
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 New Testament

Matthew 20:1-16 (Translation by the Message)

20 1-2 "God's kingdom is like an estate manager who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. They agreed on a wage of a dollar a day, and went to work.

3-5 "Later, about nine o'clock, the manager saw some other men hanging around the town square unemployed. He told them to go to work in his vineyard and he would pay them a fair wage. They went.

5-6 "He did the same thing at noon, and again at three o'clock. At five o'clock he went back and found still others standing around. He said, 'Why are you standing around all day doing nothing?'

7 "They said, 'Because no one hired us.' "He told them to go to work in his vineyard.

8 "When the day's work was over, the owner of the vineyard instructed his foreman, 'Call the workers in and pay them their wages. Start with the last hired and go on to the first.'

9-12 "Those hired at five o'clock came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more. But they got the same, each of them one dollar. Taking the dollar, they groused angrily to the manager, 'These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just made them equal to us, who slaved all day under a scorching sun.'

13-15 "He replied to the one speaking for the rest, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn't we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can't I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?'

16 "Here it is again, the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the last first."

SERMON "When People Want More" 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]**

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 Jim Repinski
in celebration of
Rosie Repinski's 70th birthday.**



YouTube link for September 24, 2023

https://youtube.com/live/dcz_DXh-YPO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Saturday, September 23rd –
Marge Goetsch Memorial Service
10 am visitation - 11 am service**

**Tuesday, September 26th –
- 1 PM – Bible Study – 1209 Bruley Street
*every week at Donita Follen's home**

**Saturday, September 30th –
Dolores Johnson Memorial Service
10 am visitation - 11 am service**



**Hosting Coffee
Fellowship
after worship
Sign up sheet on
back bulletin board**

Sept 24 – Nancy & Kirk Rodman
Oct 1 – Carole Romens & Donita Follen
Oct 8 – Sharon Buddenhagen
Oct 15 – Barb Petkovsek
Oct 22 – Stewardship Comm.