

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Sue Vornholt

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PRELUDE "We Plow The Fields and Scatter"

Johann Schulz

Deon Spangler

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come from the East, the West, the South,
and the North into this sacred space to worship the
living God who walks with us.

**People: O, God, we worship you for who you are, for
loving and granting us your grace.**

One: We lift our hands in praise to you and open our
hearts to worship you in the fullness of who we are.

**ALL: Let us worship the Lord our God with joyful and
thankful hearts. Amen!**

INVOCATION

Jesus, we ask that You bless our time together, that
we may hear Your words and apply them to our lives
so that You will be honored and glorified. Allow your
Holy Spirit to move through us so our faith grows and
bears fruit. Amen!

HYMN "This Is the Day"

#84 NCH Les Garrett

**1 This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made,
that our God has made;
we will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day that our God has made.**

**2 This is the day, this is the day
Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;
we will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day that Jesus rose again ,
we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day.
this is the day Jesus rose again.**

**3 This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came,
We will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day,
This is the day when the Spirit came.**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (All)

**Lord Jesus, we bow before you to confess that we are
sinners and need forgiveness. We have failed you and
your people many times and have neglected to do
your will and love our neighbor as ourselves. We seek
your wisdom and ask that your Holy Spirit create a
pure heart that moves us to do what is right. We ask
that your love overflow in us so we can live out our
faith as a new creation to serve you and your people.
Help us to strive towards a more just and kinder
world for all. Lord Jesus, have mercy on us. Amen!**

WORDS OF GRACE (Pastor)

People of God, "for it is by grace you have been saved,
through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the
gift of God—"Your sins are forgiven. Ephesians 2:8 NIV

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."

ACT OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Gloria Patri # 338 Red UCC

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 21:23-46

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

³³"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." ⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

SERMON *"How is Your Garden Growing?"* Pastor Sue

RESPONSE TO THE WORD (All) UCC Statement of Faith

#885 NCH - Doxological version

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit

**God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God and
to your deeds we testify;**

You call the worlds into being,

**create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and
death**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from
aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.**

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship to be your servants in the service of others to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen

HYMN *"I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"*

#351 NCH

John Ylvisaker

**1 I was there to hear your boring cry,
I'll be there when you are old.**

**I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.**

**I was there when you were but a child,
With a faith to suit you well;**

**I'll be there in case you wander off
And find where demons dwell.**

**2 When you found the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on;**

**You were raised to praise the living God,
To whom you now belong.**

**Should you find someone to share your time
And you join your hearts as one,**

**I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
From dusk till rising sun.**

**3 In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.**

**I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.**

**When the evening gently closes in
And you shut your weary eyes,**

**I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.**

**4 I was there to hear your boring cry,
I'll be there when you are old.**

**I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
To see your life unfold.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Crue Steven Sigurdson, son of Erik & Jenna Sigurdson

Sponsors – Ben & Kelly Mathis

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE (Pastor)

O Gracious God, we lift this community of faith in prayer and ask for your blessings upon them. We pray for the needs of all gathered and ask you to meet them where they are.

We lift those in need of healing, those in financial need, those in need of employment, and those in need of shelter and food. We ask that you be with those who are alone and isolated and for those mourning the loss of a loved one.

We lift in prayer all those seeking you and needing a friend. Watch over them, O God, and may your Spirit protect them from evil and harm. We pray that those battling addiction and mental illness may get the help they need to live whole lives.

We pray for our nation, for those in leadership, that they may lead with integrity, caring, and loving hearts so that the decisions made on our behalf will be made with the concern and well-being of all your people.

O Gracious God, in your mercy, hear our prayer concerns and help us to be good stewards of your creation and give us grace to love and forgive as you forgive and love us. Amen!

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)

We are invited to share our blessings generously with our church, community, and world. By sharing our gifts freely, God will be honored and glorified in our giving. So, let's give with joy in our hearts from our abundant blessings so that others may be blessed.

PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING (All)

Lord Jesus, we give thanks for each gift given. Bless them and multiply them so that others will be blessed, and your love will be shared worldwide. Amen!

HYMN "Jesus Loves Me"

#327 NCH Anna B. Warner/David Rutherford McGuire

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! This I know,
as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." [Refrain]

3 Jesus loves me! Still today,
walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION (Pastor)

Go forth to harvest fruit that impacts the world.
Go forth with God's love to share with all.
Go forth with the peace of Jesus Christ and
With the communion with the Holy Spirit to be
the transformative agents you are being called to be.
Amen!

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 Phil & Donita Follen
in honor of the "church family".

YouTube link for October 8, 2023

<https://youtube.com/live/lw88qMKgQ7g>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, October 10th –

- 1 PM – Marge Goetsch Bible Study –
*every week at Donita Follen's home
1209 Bruley Street

Thursday, October 12th –

- 1 PM - Circle of Friends Fall Picnic



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

Oct 8 – Sharon Buddenhagen

Oct 15 – Barb Petkovsek

Oct 22 – Stewardship Comm.

Nov 5 –

Nov 12 -

Nov 19 -