

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 5, 2023

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Barb Shoemaker

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PRELUDE *"Here I Am to Worship"* Tim Hughes
"Knowing You" Graham Kendrick
"Sweet, Sweet Spirit" Doris Akers
Holly Pisors, pianist

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

"This is the day that the Lord has made; Let us rejoice
and be glad in it. O come, let us worship and bow
down; let us kneel before God, our Maker"
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and
the gifts of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand)

Leader: We have come to affirm our historic faith.

**People: To worship the God of our mothers and
fathers.**

Leader: We have come to remember God's benefits to
us, the living.

**People: To respond in thanksgiving to the mighty
works of God in our lives.**

Leader: We have come to affirm our trust in the God of
all futures.

**People: To whose name be blessing and honor, glory
and power forever and ever. Amen**

HYMN *"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"*

#73 NCH Louis 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.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we pray, we speak to God. When we pray,
God speaks to us. Let us, therefore, enter into
dialogue with our Creator.

**(ALL) We confess without reservation that our
dialogue with you, O God, is not really a dialogue.
Too often, we ask without listening, complain
without offering thanksgiving. We pray and cannot
understand why we get no response. Awaken us to
wonder: If you called, would we answer? Or would
you get a busy signal? Would you leave a message
and get no answer in return? We confess anew our
impatience and our unwillingness to sit in the holy
stillness of your presence. Forgive us, loving God.
Thank you for letting us try again. In this minute of
silence, let us be still and listen to what you would
say to us this day.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Even when we try and fail again and again, God loves us still. In the richness of God's grace, we accept the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding. Amen

PRAISE RESPONSE

(sung twice)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: 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 LESSON

Ephesians 2: 19-22

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

SERMON *"Wall of Faith"* Barb Shoemaker

HYMN *"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"*

#448 NCH Frances R. Havergal

**1 Take my life, God, let it be,
Consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**2 Take my spirit, let it move,
At the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use
All its powers as you choose.**

**3 Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart and by your grace,
Make of it your dwelling place.**

4 Take my love and let it grow.

Let my loving overflow.

Take me now, and let me be,

Part of Christ's community.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Leader: 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

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

Today is All Saints Day; a time to reflect on the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ who were called to their heavenly home this year. Please join me in prayer;

Leader: God is in this place.

People: And in our hearts.

Leader: Open yourself to the nudging God.

People: We feel the breath of the Spirit.

Leader: Jesus grieves with us; Jesus weeps with us.

People: God embraces us with comfort; God wipes away our tears.

We remember those who have died in the past year. We celebrate their lives, even as we continue to grieve. We invite families to come forward as their loved one is named. Light a candle and, if you wish to do so, offer a sentence or two of remembrance.

We remember:

Betty Opelt
Darlene Celar Mueller
Dolores Johnson
Berdella Carl
Marge Goetsch
Tammy Marty
Donna Dekker

We also remember others who have gone before us. We invite those who would like to come forward, light a candle and name your loved one.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE –

A Prayer Meditation for All Saints Day

Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshiped you whether in brush arbors or cathedrals, weathered wooden churches or crumbling

cement meeting houses, where your name was lifted and adored.

We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise: manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil, strong hands and those gnarled with age. Holy hands used as wave offerings across the land.

We thank you, God, for hardworking saints, whether hard-hatted or steel-booted, head ragged or aproned, blue-collared or three-pieced suited. They left their mark on the earth for you, for us and for our children to come.

Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us. Bless the memories of your saints, God. May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love.

Hear us, as we pray together the prayer of our Savior.....**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**

CLOSING HYMN *“For All the Saints”*
#299 NCH Wm. W. Howe

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their refuge, and their might;
You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight
‘mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

May the great Ruler of all places, God of many names, touch you with a wind that keeps you strong, for all the days to come. 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**

YouTube link for November 5, 2023

<https://youtube.com/live/oq7ux7Eo-WQ>

This week’s radio broadcast
is sponsored by
Phil & Donita Follen
in honor of
their Wedding Anniversary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, November 6th –
- 9 AM – making cards

Tuesday, November 7th –
- 1 PM – Marge Goetsch Bible Study –
*every week thru November 1, 2023 at
Donita Follen’s home- 1209 Bruley Street

Wednesday, November 8th –
- 5 PM – J.A.M. Club Meeting –
starting practice for Christmas program



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

Nov 5 – Bonnie & Ray Weyer

Nov 12 – Doris Bakker

Nov 19 –

Nov 26 –