

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 10, 2023**  
United Church of Christ, Neillsville  
Pastor James Mohr

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**PRELUDE** *“What is This Lovely Fragrance”*  
Paul Manz Karen Mohr

**RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**STEWARDSHIP MISSION MOMENT – Video**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: A voice cries out declaring God’s presence.  
Comfort, O Comfort my people, says God.

**All: We come preparing the way of the Lord.**

**Together, we actively wait for God’s peace.**

Leader: A voice cries out declaring God’s equity.  
Valleys shall be lifted and hills be made low.

**All: We come to make straight in the desert a highway.**

**Together, we’re pressing toward God’s peace.**

Leader: A voice cries out declaring steadfastness.  
Grass withers, flowers fade, but God’s word stands forever.

**All: We lift up our voices with strength and good tidings.**

**Together, we carry out God’s peace.**

**HYMN** *“On Jordan’s Bank”*  
**#84 vs 1-4 (Red UCC Hymnal)** Charels Coffin

**1** On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh.  
Awake and harken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

**2** Then cleansed be every life from sin:  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

**3** We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward.  
Without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

**4** Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.

**LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE**  
Jenna Ziegler, Reese, William, Claire

**HYMN** *“On Jordan’s Bank”*  
**#84 vs 5 (Red UCC Hymnal)**

**5** All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

**INVOCATION** (All)  
**Spirit of God, who dwells within our hearts,**  
**Wean it from that which aims to separate us from you.**  
**In this moment of collective worship**  
**take the dimness of our souls away.**  
**Let us seek you. Let us find you.**  
**Teach us to feel that you are always nigh**  
**as we lift up our voices with strength to worship you.**

**HYMN** *“Lead Us from Death to Life”*  
**#581 NCH**

**Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,**  
**From despair to hope, from fear to trust.**  
**Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;**  
**Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,**  
**Let peace fill our universe.**

**PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE** (All)  
**God, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you. Our**  
**world worships the power that acts quickly through**  
**force; how difficult it is for us to wait for the power of**  
**your rule which comes slowly through love. We admit,**  
**that while claiming to desire your reign of peace and**  
**justice, we take part in the ways of war, hatred, and**  
**injustice. We leave little room for you to act in our**  
**lives.**

**We turn now to you in repentance and openness to your Spirit. Forgive us, and show us how to clear a path for you. Come to us in your Christ, and reveal your reign on earth. Amen.**

**WORDS OF GRACE** (PASTOR)

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*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."*

**PRAISE RESPONSE** "*Gloria Canon*" sung twice

**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** reader- Susie Karl  
**Isaiah 40:1-11**

40 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

**Mark 1:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**SERMON** "The Challenge of Change" Pastor Jim

**HYMN** "*In the Bleak Midwinter*"  
**#128 NCH** Christina G. Rossetti

**1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**2 Our God transcends all heaven, earth, and its domain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when Christ comes to reign;  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the sovereign God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**3 Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air;  
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.**

**4 What can I offer, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;  
but what I can I offer: all my heart.**

## MORNING PRAYERS

### PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

#### THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done:  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Prayer of Dedication

#### HYMN *"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"*

#88 (Red UCC) James Montgomery

1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

2 He comes with succor speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in his sight.

### COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

#### PRAISE RESPONSE

3 He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains,  
shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains,  
from hill to valley flow.

#### POSTLUDE

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RADIO BROADCAST

11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN  
98.5FM and 1370AM

This week's radio broadcast  
is sponsored by Berdella and Roger Carl  
in loving memory of husband & father,  
Herman Carl,  
and all of the Carl and Seelow families.

## 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.

YouTube link for Sunday, December 10, 2023

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

**TODAY** - UCC will hold a Congregational meeting  
immediately following the service. At this meeting  
we will review the proposed 2024 budget, as well  
as vote on committee members. All members and  
friends are welcome to attend.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sunday, December 10th – Worship

- 10 AM Deacon – Karlene Wallace  
Greeter(s) – Cris & Lisa Hediger  
Usher(s) – Russ Karl, Paul Schmidt

### Tuesday, December 12th –

- 1 PM – Marge Goetsch Bible Study –  
\*now meeting in the lounge of church

### Wednesday, December 13th –

- 5 PM Deacon's Meeting

### Thursday, December 14th –

- 1 PM Circle of Friends Christmas Party

**Coffee fellowship** after worship -  
Sign up sheet is temporarily in the church office.

Dec 10 – Barb Petkovsek

Dec 17 – Christian Ed.

Dec 24 – no morning service

Dec 31 - Sharon Buddenhagen

Jan 7 –

Jan 14 -

Jan 21 -



Glory to God  
*in the highest.*  
and on earth peace,  
good will toward men.

Luke 2:14, KJV