

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 14, 2024

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Sue Vornholt

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PRELUDE

'Walking in The Air' from the Snowman Howard Blake
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

God, you call each of us to serve you, and we answer,
"Here I am!"

Jesus, you call each of us to follow you, and we
answer,

"Here I am!"

Holy Spirit, you call each of us to worship you this day,
and we answer,

"Here I am!"

HYMN *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"*

#4 NCH Henry van Dyke

**1 Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

**2 All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
teach us what our praise should be.**

**3 You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blessed,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother,
all who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other,
by that love our joy renew.**

**4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,
reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward,
faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward
in the triumph song of life.**

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you call to us today, just as you called to the
boy Samuel so long ago. Gathered here today, we are
many different ages, but we pray for the maturity of
faith to hear your call and respond to your Word.
Open our ears and our hearts as we worship, as we
work, and as we care for one another. We ask that
you would give us courage and integrity to answer
your call with the heart-felt words, "Here I am!"
Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Awesome God, you have made all of creation and
each cell of our bodies. You know our thoughts and
you know our sins. We desperately try to hide our

mistakes, our weaknesses, our embarrassments. But you know it all, and so we come before you now asking for your forgiveness. Even as you know the limits of our human capabilities, we know the unlimited power of your love. Forgive us, cleanse us, make us whole. (prayer continues in silence)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The God who has made us will never desert us. The God of creation is creating still, making us new. The God whose love gave us the gift of Jesus Christ is the same God whose love forgives and sustains us. Amen

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."

PRAISE RESPONSE

(sung twice)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

1Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

3Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and

said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." ¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

¹O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

SERMON "Coming Through the Night" Pastor Sue

HYMN "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"
#495 NCH Jane Parker Huber

**1 Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side, and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God's chosen end.**

**2 Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer and poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.**

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.

Offertory "What Child is This?" Paul Manz
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. Amen**

DEDICATION PRAYER (All)

**God of all wisdom, how often have we been deaf to
your voice speaking to our hearts, especially when we
move in a world that needs it so desperately? The
reading from 1 Samuel brings us the phrase, "The
word of the Lord was rare in those days," which
resonates with the relevance of the evening news. As
we bring our gifts to be dedicated this morning, we
pray that you might open our ears, open our hearts to
hear where you call us to respond with obedience, so
that we might do what you need to begin healing our
world. In Christ, we pray. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

And now, sisters and brothers, go from this place knowing that the God who made you also sustains you. The God who calls you also goes with you. The God who loved you before you were born still loves you today, and into all the tomorrows. 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]**

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 January 14, 2024

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

**This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored by "a faithful listener".**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 14th – Worship

- **10 AM** Deacon – Byrl Buddenhagen
Greeter(s) – Larry & Kathy Marshall
Usher(s) – Ray Weyer, Mike Perkl

Monday, January 15th –

- **9 AM – Card Making**

Tuesday, January 16th –

- **1 PM – Marge Goetsch Bible Study –**
*will meet in the lounge of church
- **5:30 PM – Trustees Meeting**



Through prayer and mutual consent
the Search Committee has selected
Julianna (Julie) Ruegsegger as our candidate
for the ministry of our church. On January 28th,
Julie will conduct our Sunday Service at 10 a.m.
**Following the service there will be a
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** to hear a report from
the Search Committee, discuss the terms of the
Call Agreement, and vote on calling
Julianna Ruegsegger as our new pastor.
Assuming a positive vote,
we are anticipating a start date around May 1st.

Coffee fellowship after worship

Sign up now on the back bulletin board for
hosting future weeks.

Jan 14 – Nancy & Kirk Rodman

Jan 21 –

Jan 28 – Barb Petkovsek

Feb 4 -

January 21, 2024

Curbside Pick-up

10:45-11:00 am



United Church of Christ-Neillsville
515 West 2nd Street