

Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 21, 2024
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE

"Beneath Thy Wings O'ershading"

Van Denman Thompson

Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMANDS

William Ziegler	Owen Sigurdson
Kyson Erickson	Landon Bergemann
Tyler Williams	Jonathan Clarkson
Iris Vine	Ava Kruschke
	Max Heck

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Leader: Light Print **People: Bold**)

God called to Jonah, and he turned away.

*(People turn away from the front of the worship
space.)*

Jesus called the fishers by the sea, and they followed
him. *(People turn back to face the front.)*

God calls on us to repent – to turn our lives around.

(People turn around in a complete circle.)

Let us respond to God's call.

Let us worship God!

HYMN *"Come, We Who Love God's Name"* (vs. 1-3)

#382 NCH Isaac Watts Refrain: Robert Lowry

**1 Come, we who love God's name,
and let our joys be known;
Together God's great love proclaim,
together God's great love proclaim,
and thus surround the throne,
and thus surround the throne.**

Refrain:

**We're marching to Zion,
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching onward to Zion,
the beautiful city of God.**

**2 Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but we our thanks and praise will bring,
but we our thanks and praise will bring
for love so deep and broad,
for love so deep and broad. (Refrain)**

**3 God's grace n earth is found,
The seeds of glory sown;
Celestial fruits on earthly ground,
Celestial fruits on earthly ground,
From faith and hope have grown,
From faith and hope have grown. (Refrain)**

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (All)

**Forgive us, God of unrelenting mercy,
for the times we have run the other way
rather than enter the territory
of those we do not like,
those who have hurt us,
those we consider our enemy.**

**Forgive us for the times
we have resented your forgiveness
of those we consider not worthy.
Forgive us for the times
we have wallowed in anger and self-pity
rather than rejoice in the bounty of your love
for all people.**

**Sometimes, we want you to punish our enemies
and confirm our prejudices.**

**Forgive us for putting boundaries around your mercy
and borders on your forgiveness.**

Help us to see ourselves as children of the Most Merciful One, sisters and brothers of all whom you have created.

**Help us to forgive those who sin against us
(pause for silent confession)
as you forgive us. Amen.**

WORDS 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 TIME

CELLO SOLO Jonathan Clarkson

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson Iris Vine

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

3The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

EPISTLE LESSON

Jonathan Clarkson

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

GOSPEL LESSON

Max Heck

Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

SERMON "The Time is Right" Pastor Jim

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**UCC Statement of Faith in a Doxological Form
#885 NCH**

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 *"Jesus Call Us, o'er the Tumult"*

#172 NCH Cecil Alexander William H. Jude

1 Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us,
saying, "Christian, follow me."

2 As of old, Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the treasures we adore,
From each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

5 Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

MORNING PRAYERS

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

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *"Be Thou My Vision"* Dale Wood

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 *"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"*

#173 NCH vs. 1-3 Madeline Forell Marshall

1 You have come to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow.

Refrain

O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you I will seek other seas.

2 You know full well my possessions;
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will for working. (Refrain)

3 You need my hands, my exhaustion,
Working love for the rest of the weary-
A love that's willing to go on loving. (Refrain)

COMMISSIONING AND 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**

YouTube link for January 21, 2024

https://youtube.com/live/l4X_e4FN-ZM

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by
Joy & Frank Zeman, Cindy & Cedric Thayer,
Judy & Mark Tiede
in memory of our dear aunt, Berdella Carl.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 21st – Worship

- **10 AM** Deacon – Sally Sadowska
Greeter(s)– confirmands –
William Ziegler, Kyson Erickson, Landon
Bergemann, Ava Kruschke
Usher(s) – confirmands, Ben Mathis

Tuesday, January 23rd –

- **1 PM – Marge Goetsch Bible Study –**
*will meet in the lounge of church

Wednesday, January 24th -

- **5:00 PM – J.A.M. Club at UCC**
Confirmation at Calvary

Thursday, January 25th –

- **5:00 PM – Council 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 21 – Kathy Mathis & Kelly Mathis

Jan 28 – Barb Petkovsek

Feb 4 –

Feb 11 -

January 21, 2024

Curbside Pick-up

10:45-11:00 am

**Meal
Giveaway**



United Church of Christ-Neillsville
515 West 2nd Street