

First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE *"Prelude and Fugue in C"* J.S. Bach
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

L: The voice of God proclaims of Jesus, "You are my beloved, and I love you."

A: We, too, are God's beloved children, loved and embraced.

L: With all the voices reminding us that we are not enough or don't belong, it is tempting to forget our place in God's reign.

A: With the waters of baptism and the voice of God's promises, we can face the temptations of any wilderness or desert that would draw us away from the Source of our hope.

L: Embrace your belovedness.

A: We rejoice in God's unending love for us!

HYMN *"Down at the Cross"*

#189 NCH Elisha A. Hoffman

**1 Down at the cross where my Savior died,
down where for cleansing from sin I cried,
there to my heart was the blood applied—
Glory to Christ's name.**

Refrain:

**Glory to Christ's name,
glory to Christ's name;
There to my heart was the blood applied;
glory to Christ's name.**

**2 I am so wondrously saved from sin,
Jesus so sweetly abides within;
there at the cross where Christ took me in—
Glory to Christ's name. [Refrain]**

**3 O precious fountain that saves from sin,
I am so glad I have entered in;
there Jesus saves me and keeps me clean—
Glory to Christ's name. [Refrain]**

**4 Come to this fountain so rich and sweet,
cast your poor soul at the Savior's feet;
plunge in today and be made complete—
Glory to Christ's name. [Refrain]**

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (All)

O God of love, as Jesus was driven out to be tempted in the wilderness, we too, face wildernesses of our own. We are tempted to forget your promises, to rely upon our own strength, and to listen to the destructive voices of power and oppression. Free us from our own hubris. Help us to reclaim our spiritual center as rooted in your love. Open our being to hearing your voice proclaim us as your child who is welcomed, held, and whole. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Friends, through wilderness and desert, through sacraments born of water, you are a child of God held tenderly in the embrace of our Creator. Remember your baptism. Remember a path has been made for you. Remember you are not alone. Remember, that in Christ Jesus you are forgiven and made whole. 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

Gloria Patri #338 Red UCC Hymnal

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 "Lent"

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Reader – Susie Karl

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹² God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷ God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered ¹⁹ for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you ²⁰ to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ²¹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²² who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²³ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves

you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for ²⁴ a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²⁵ who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:9-15

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. ¹¹ And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; ¹² with you I am well pleased." ¹³ And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹⁴ He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him. ¹⁵ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news ¹⁶ of ¹⁷ God ¹⁸ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; ¹⁹ repent, and believe in the good news."²⁰

SERMON "To Begin Again" Pastor Jim

HYMN "Forty Days and Forty Nights"
#205 NCH George Hunt Smyttan

**1 Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.**

**2 Shall we not your sorrow share
and from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with you to suffer pain?**

**3 Then if Satan on us press,
flesh or spirit to assail,
Victor in the wilderness,
grant that we not faint or fail!**

**4 So shall we have peace divine:
holier gladness ours shall be;
'Round us, too, shall angels shine,
such as served you faithfully.**

**5 Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
ever constant by your side;
That with you we may appear
at the eternal Easter-tide.**

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 "My Heart Ever Faithful" J.S. Bach

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 "Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross"

#197 NCH Fanny Crosby

**1 Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.**

Refrain:

**In the cross, in the cross,
be my glory ever,
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.**

**2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. [Refrain]**

**3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me live from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]**

**4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand,
just beyond the river. [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 Sunday, February 18, 2024
<https://youtube.com/live/SU9FLumROFw>

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by
Roni Kaczor-Smith
"Remembering" my UCC church family



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, February 18th – Worship

- 10 AM Deacon – Byrl Buddenhagen
Greeter(s)– Nancy Boon, Carole Romens
Usher(s) – Janice Miller, Jim Vradenburg
- 10:45 – 11:00 AM Meal Give Away

Monday, February 19th -

- 9:00 AM – Card Making

Tuesday, February 20th –

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

Wednesday, February 21st -

- 5:00 PM – J.A.M. Club at UCC
- 5:00 PM -Confirmation at Calvary
- 6:00-6:30 PM – Soup Supper at Calvary
- 7:00 PM – Lenten Worship at Calvary

Monday, February 26th –

- 5:30 PM – Council Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship

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

Feb 18 – Nancy & Kirk Rodman

Feb 25 - Carole Romens

Mar 3 – Mathis

Mar 10 –

Mar 17 -

TODAY

Chili Soup Giveaway
February 18, 2024



UCC-Neillsville 515 West 2nd Street
10:45-11:00 AM