

Second Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2024
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Sue Vornholt

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20913817

PRELUDE *"Jesus is All the World to Me"* Will Thomas
"In the Garden" Austin Miles
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

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

Lenten travelers, who is this Jesus that we follow?

He is the Messiah.

What kind of Messiah is Jesus?

**He is the Messiah who teaches that he will lose his
life and who calls us to lose our lives in order to save
our lives.**

How does it feel to follow a Messiah whose teachings
and call are so hard and uncomfortable?

**Some feel fear and anger, while others feel uncertain
and anxious, and still others feel resolute and ready
to follow.**

Lenten travelers, we are not alone in our feelings
about following Jesus as our Messiah. It is a hard road.
The blessing is that we do not travel it alone.

**Thanks be to God that we share this journey with
Jesus and one another as we lose our lives for the
sake of the gospel to save our lives through Jesus, our
Messiah. Amen**

HYMN *"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*
#190 NCH Elizabeth C. Clephane

**1 Beneath the cross of Jesus
I gladly take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat,
and the burden of the day.**

**2 Upon the cross of Jesus
within my mind I see
the very dying form of One
who suffered there for me;
And from my grieving heart with tears
two wonders I confess -
the wonders of Christ's glorious love
and my unworthiness.**

**3 I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine
than the sunshine of Christ's face;
Content to let the world go by,
to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.**

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (All)

Come let us turn to our God, who is gracious and
merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast
love. Let us pray.

**Holy Friend, our God and Saviour,
we have talked much about faith yet have been slow
to take its risks,
we have lauded forgiveness yet have been miserly in
giving it,**

**we have praised truth yet have fudged our own integrity,
we have extolled love yet have placed conditions on our loving,
we have urged hope for others yet have ourselves lived like cynics,
we have honored Christ's Cross yet have avoided our own.**

WORDS OF GRACE

Faithful God, please deal with each according to our individual betrayals of the Gospel we espouse. By your Spirit enter the secret caverns of the soul and there expose, judge, counsel, cleanse and reform us. Forgive us repeatedly, we pray, until forgiveness is such a part of us that it may become a way of life as we deal with those around us. In the name of Christ our Redeemer.

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 17:1-7

17When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Epistle Lesson

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who 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 persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 8:31-38

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

SERMON "Generation to Generation" Pastor Sue

HYMN "God Loved the World"

#208 NCH

August Crull

1 God loved the world, and loving gave
a wondrous gift, the lost to save,
that all who would in Christ believe
should everlasting life receive.

2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death;
All who confide in Christ alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.

3 If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves us all from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

4 Be of good cheer, for God in Christ
Forgives the flock, by sin enticed.
And justified by Jesus' blood,
Your baptism grants the highest good.

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

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory "He Leadeth Me" Wm. Bradbury

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**

Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN "Just As I Am"

#207 NCH

Charlotte Elliott

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

3 Just as I am, you will receive,
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

4 Just as I am, your love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
Now to be yours, and yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

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 25, 2024
<https://youtube.com/live/KORmd9YTIas>

This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored anonymously
in "Prayer for world peace".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, February 25th – Worship

- 10 AM Deacon – Barb Shoemaker
- Greeter(s) – Pat Acheson & Herman Seebandt
- Usher(s) – Ken Shoemaker, Travis Vine

Following worship – ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, February 26th –

- 6 PM – Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 27th –

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

Wednesday, February 28th –

- 6 PM Soup Supper here at UCC
- 7 PM Lenten Worship Service at UCC

Coffee fellowship after worship

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

Feb 25 – Carole Romens

Mar 3 – Mathis'

Mar 10 –

Mar 17 –

Mar 24 -



Old Wooden Banquet Tables

We have 10 tables available for purchase.
Minimum purchase price - \$10.00
Please contact the church office
at 715-743-2147 or check with
Bob Petkovsek or Mike Perkl for more info.



Please have your
articles for the March
Newsletter into the
church office by
Monday, March 4th.