

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**February 4, 2024**  
United Church of Christ, Neillsville  
Pastor James Mohr

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**PRELUDE**    *"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"* J.S. Bach  
Karen Mohr

**RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Leader: Light Print **People: Bold**)  
Have you not known?  
**Have you not known? Our God is an everlasting God.**  
Have you not heard?  
**Have you not heard? God gives power to the faint.**  
Have you not been told?  
**Have you not been told? God renews our strength.**  
**Come, let us worship.**

**HYMN**    *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*  
**#1 NCH**        Walter C. Smith

**1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.**

**2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;  
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,  
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and  
love.**

**3 Your life is life-giving - to both great and small;  
in all life you're living, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,  
then wither and perish - but naught dims your  
powers.**

**4 So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,  
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we now render as your angels do:  
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.**

**PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (All)**  
**Holy One, we hope in your steadfast love, bringing our  
broken hearts and our wounded spirits. Make us aware  
of the hearts we break, the spirits we wound, of those  
we treat as outcasts, of those we tread down. Renew us  
in your grace, renew us in your strength. Amen.**

**WORDS OF GRACE**

Have you not known? Have you not heard? God does not  
grow weary with us, but loves, forgives, and renews us.  
Go with renewed strength in your walk of faith.  
**Alleluia! Amen!**

**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**        "Some Girls Names in the Bible"

**ANTHEM**    *"On Eagle's Wings"* Michael Joncas  
sung by Joe Anderson

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

**Isaiah 40:21-31**

<sup>21</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the  
earth?  
<sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain  
and spreads them like a tent to live in,  
<sup>23</sup> who brings princes to naught  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.  
<sup>24</sup> Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom, then, will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.  
<sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.  
<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and assert, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?  
<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint  
and strengthens the powerless.  
<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted,  
<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their  
strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

### Mark 1:29-39

<sup>29</sup>As soon as they<sup>[a]</sup> left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” <sup>38</sup>He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do.” <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**SERMON** “With Wings Like Eagles” Pastor Jim

**HYMN** “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”  
#472 NCH Thomas A. Dorsey

**1 Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light:**

*Refrain*  
**Take my hand, precious Lord,  
Lead me home.**

**2 When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall: *Refrain***

**3 When the darkness appears  
And the night draws near,  
And the day is past and gone,  
At the river I stand,  
Guide my feet, hold my hand: *Refrain***

## MORNING PRAYERS

### THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory “Dona Nobis Pacem” Arr. John Schaum  
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

**COMMUNION HYMN** “As We Gather at Your Table”

#332 NCH Carl P. Daw, Jr.

**1 As we gather at your table,  
As we listen to your word,  
Help us know, O God, your presence;  
Let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
Till we claim it as our own;  
Teach us through this holy banquet  
How to make Love’s victory known.**

**2 Turn our worship into witness  
In the sacrament of life;  
Send us forth to love and serve you,  
Bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
To forgive as you forgave;  
May we still behold your image  
In the world you died to save.**

**3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
Other guests to share that feast  
Where triumphant Love will welcome  
Those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
Nor will pride our peace destroy,  
As we join with saints and angels  
To repeat the sounding joy.**

### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The United Church of Christ practices open communion.

People of all ages who confess Christ as savior are welcome.

*Communion at the Altar*

Invitation to the Table (Pastor)

**All: (sung)**

**This is the joyful feast  
of the people of God.  
Men and women,  
Youth and children,  
Come from the east and the west,  
From the north and the south,  
And gather about Christ's table.**

**Communion Prayer (Pastor)**

**The Sanctus\_ – from Argentina\_  
(Santo, Santo, Santo – Holy, Holy, Holy)**

**#793 NCH**

**Santo, santo, santo.  
¡Mi corazón te adora!  
Mi corazón te sabe decir:  
¡Santo eres Señor!**

**Holy, holy, holy.  
My heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart is glad to say the words:  
You are holy God!**

**Remembrance and Consecration (Pastor)**

We remember that on that night...Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things and we may continue faithful in all things.

**All: In the strength Christ gives us,  
We offer ourselves to you, eternal God,  
And give thanks that you have called us to serve you.  
Amen.**

**Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine**

**Prayer of Our Savior (all)**

**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.**

**Sharing the Elements**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (all)**

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our  
Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this  
holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's  
body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the  
good news of your love and that your universal church  
may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.**

**HYMN "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"**

**#82 NCH Jaroslav J. Vajda**

**1 Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing - You are my own.**

**2 Go, my children, fed and nourished, Closer to me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you;  
Here his tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.**

## COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

### 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 Dan Patey and family  
in loving memory of Elvira Patey.

#### 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, February 4, 2024

<https://youtube.com/live/vys1bVPObik>

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### Sunday, February 4th – Worship

- **10 AM** Deacon Host – Barb Shoemaker  
Greeter(s) – Russ & Susie Karl  
Usher(s) – Cris Hediger, Byrl Buddenhagen

##### Monday, February 5th –

- **9 AM – Card Making**

##### Tuesday, February 6th –

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

##### Wednesday, February 7th –

- **5 PM – J.A.M. & confirmation at Calvary**  
\*Kids will sing at the 6 pm worship at Calvary  
- **5 PM - Deacons Meeting**

##### Thursday, February 8th –

- **1:30 PM – Circle of Friends Meeting**



**“Let us go on to the  
neighboring towns,  
so that I may proclaim the  
message there also;  
for that is what I came  
out to do.”**

Mark 1:38, NRSV

#### **SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE BACK BULLETIN BOARD FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS at UCC**

- Ash Wednesday, February 14
- February 28
- March 13

We are looking for about 7 volunteers to bring a  
crock pot of homemade soup for each of these  
suppers at our church.

We will also need volunteers  
to set up, serve and clean up.

Many of our church members and friends of the  
church so enjoy this soup-supper gathering prior  
to our Lenten services.

#### **Coffee fellowship after worship -**

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

Feb 4 – Sharon Buddenhagen

Feb 11 – Susie Karl

Feb 18 –

Feb 25 –