

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE "Pavane" Gabriel Faure'
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

God loved the world so much.

How much?

So much that God offers healing from our deepest fears.

How much?

So much that God loves us forever, no matter what.

How much?

So much that we never have to earn God's love but
receive it just because God is God.

How much?

So much that God sent Jesus into the world, so that
everyone might be saved. Come, let us worship God.

Amen!

HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#43 NCH Charles Wesley

**1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, on earth be found,
fix in us a humble dwelling;
all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion;
pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**2 Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit,
let us find the promised rest.**

**Take away our love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

**3 Come, Almighty to deliver;
let us all your life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing,
love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing,
wounded arms outstretched above.**

**4 Finish then, your new creation;
pure and spotless may we prove;
let us see your great salvation
perfectly restored in you;
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Like our ancestors wandering in the desert,
sometimes we grow impatient and lose our trust in you, O
God.

When that happens,

Heal and forgive us, O God.

Sometimes fear and mistrust get the best of us,
and we respond harshly, or we panic, or we run and hide.

When that happens,

Heal and forgive us, O God.

Sometimes we ignore you, God.

We know what you want us to do, yet we do other things.

We are easily influenced by others.

When that happens,

Heal and forgive us, O God.

Sometimes we think we have to earn your love,
and we don't feel good enough.

Sometimes we think that we're better than others,
or that we deserve your love and they don't.

When that happens,

Heal and forgive us, O God.

Sometimes we ignore you – your gracious love and your call to discipleship.

Sometimes we live as if you were far away and had never come to live among us.

When that happens,

Heal and forgive us, O God.

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear this good news from the letter to the Ephesians: *“It is by God’s grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God’s gift, so that no one can boast about it.”*

So, know that God loves you and has saved you.

Thanks be to God!

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson Reader – Iris Vine
Numbers 21:4-9 Snakes

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.”

So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

EPISTLE LESSON Reader – Max Heck
Ephesians 2:1-10 Kindness and Grace

You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived ⁴among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

GOSPEL LESSON
John 3:14-21 Lifted Up

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

SERMON "No Longer Snakes in the Grass" 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 "Amazing Grace"
#547 NCH John Newton

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 My God has promised good to me,
whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

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 "Theme of the Blessed Spirit"

C.W. vonGluck

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 "What Wondrous Love is This"
#223 NCH (CHRISTOPHER)

1 What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this!
that Christ should come in bliss
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heavy cross for my soul!

2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

3 And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on!

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, March 10, 2024
<https://youtube.com/live/LdohLPuBCnO>

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored
by Sue & Jim Pople in remembrance
of Sue's parents, Norbert & Phyllis Embke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, March 10th – Worship

- 10 AM Deacon – Sally Sadowska
Greeter(s)– Karen Northup, Lydia Schumacher
Usher(s) – Mike Perkl, Debbie Perkl

Tuesday, March 12th –

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

Wednesday, March 13th –

- 6:00-6:30 PM – Soup Supper at UCC
- 7:00 PM – Lenten Worship at UCC

Thursday, March 14th -

- 1:30 PM – Circle of Friends Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship

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

Mar 10 – Bonnie Shaw

Mar 17 –

Mar 24 -

Mar 31- EASTER - NO FELLOWSHIP



Set your clocks ahead for
this Sunday, March 10th
Daylight Savings Time
Begins.



*Meal
Giveaway
March 17, 2024*

UCC Neillsville

515 West Second Street

10:45-11:00 AM