

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Sue Vornholt

All music in this service copied and streamed under
OneLicense.net A-723900 and CCLI License #
20913817

PRELUDE *“Rondo in G”* John Bull
Karen Mohr

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

L: New life rises!

A: That which rises, must first fall and die.

L: Single grains merely remain as they are unless they
are released to the ground.

**A: The grains of the earth that fall will multiply and
nourish.**

L: Come, die to the self and live a life of service to the
Living God.

A: And God will raise us up anew. Amen.

HYMN *“I Woke Up This Morning”*

#85 NCH Jeffrey Radford

**1 I woke up this morning with my mind
stayed on Jesus,
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on
Jesus,
woke up this morning with my mind) stayed on
Jesus,
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.**

2 Singing and praying with my mind

stayed on Jesus,

**Singing and praying with my mind stayed on
Jesus,**

**Singing and praying with my mind) stayed on
Jesus,**

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (All)

**God of love, we confess that our ego can all too often
get in the way of our ability to serve you and others
with our lives. Our false self is driven by our lack of
trust in you to provide for our every need. We rely on
our own strength. But, our true self can let go and be
formed anew by your love. Forgive us our false ways
and transform us and raise us to new life. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

Friends, Jesus reminds us that those who serve him
will have the assurance of his presence with them.
Trust that you are forgiven, that new life rises, and
that Jesus abides with you. In the name of Christ,
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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-34

¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Gospel Lesson

John 12:20-33

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

SERMON "The Secret to Life" 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

As yeast rises to create bread, so do the rising of our gifts multiply the love of God in the life of the world. Give of your treasure, whatever it may be, however large or small. And trust God will use it for the building of the kingdom of God that is emerging among us.

Offertory

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 (All)

**O God who causes our lives to rise, we lay down
to you the abundance you have given us and
allow it to fall so that you may multiply it to
give life to your world. May it be so. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *"God Be With You"*

#81 NCH Jeremiah E. Rankin

**1 God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain:

**Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**2 God be with you till we meet again;
Wings of shelter safely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]**

**3 God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]**

**4 God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]**

COMMISSIONG 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 17, 2024
<https://youtube.com/live/J3HFsNdaq3w>

This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored by Paul Vine & Kelley Burch
in loving memory of Paul's mother,
Faith Vine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, March 17th – Worship

- 10 AM Deacon – Karlene Wallace
Greeter(s) – Sandy Bieneck & Michelle Bergemann
Usher(s) – Bob Petkovsek, Barb Petkovsek

Monday, March 18th –

- 8 AM – Card Making

Tuesday, March 19th –

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

Wednesday, March 20th –

**- 5 PM J.A.M. Club at UCC
Confirmation at Calvary
- 6 PM Soup Supper at Calvary
- 7 PM Lenten Worship Service at Calvary**

Coffee fellowship after worship

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

Mar 17 – Carole Romens

Mar 24 –

Mar 31- EASTER – no fellowship

Please order your Easter Lilies by March 25th. The cost is \$17.00 – please make your **checks out to UCC**. You may dedicate or honor a lily to someone of your choosing.



See Janice in the office for details.



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.



*Meal
Giveaway
March 17, 2024*

UCC Neillsville

515 West Second Street

10:45-11:00 AM