

Third Sunday in Lent
March 3, 2024
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE *"Assurance"* John Ness Beck
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (Video)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the day that God has made;

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: O come, let us worship and bow down;

All: Let us kneel before God, our Maker.

HYMN *"Many are the Lightbeams"*
#163 NCH David Lewis

1 Many are the lightbeams from one light.
Our one light Jesus.
Many are the lightbeams from the one light;
we are one in Christ.

2 Many are the branches of the one tree.
Our one tree is Jesus.
Many are the branches of the one tree;
we are one in Christ.

3 Many are the gifts giv'n, love is all one.
Love's the gift of Jesus.
Many are the gifts giv'n, love is all one;
we are one in Christ.

4 Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one;
servant spirit of Jesus.
Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one;
we are one in Christ.

5 Many are the members, the body is one;
members all of Jesus.
Many are the members, the body is one;
we are one in Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God's law is perfect; it revives the soul.

All: Forgive us, O God, for we do not obey your commandments.

One: God's testimony is sure; it makes wise the simple.

All: Forgive us, O God, for we place status above service.

One: God's precepts are right; they rejoice the heart.

All: Forgive us, O God, for we take delight in false gods.

One: God's commandment is pure; it enlightens the eyes.

All: Forgive us, O God, for we overlook our neighbor's needs.

One: God's ordinances are true; they are altogether righteous.

All: O God, have mercy upon us: only you can save us.

In Christ redeem us and cleanse us of sin.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life. 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 Patri"*

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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 20:1-17

20Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 2:13-22

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling

the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

SERMON "Created for Community" Pastor Jim

RESPONSE TO THE WORD UCC Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, 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.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him.
Amen**

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

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

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.

**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. For thine is
the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen**

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 "Help Us Accept Each Other"

#388 NCH

Fred Kaan

1 Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.

Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

3 Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved

in living situations to do the truth in love;

To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

4 God, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,

Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:

renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!

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 Jim & Rosie Repinski
in "Praise of Jesus Christ"**

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, March 3, 2024

<https://youtube.com/live/F2gl3CbTUL8>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, March 3rd – Worship

- 10 AM Deacon Host – Byrl Buddenhagen
Greeter(s) – Bonnie Shaw & Frances Short
Usher(s) – Emile Miller, Janet Meredith

Monday, March 4th –

-9 AM Card Making

Tuesday, March 5th –

- 1 PM – Marge Goetsch Bible Study –

***will meet in the lounge of church**

Wednesday, March 6th –

- 5 PM – J.A.M. & confirmation at Calvary

***Kids will sing at the 6 pm worship at Calvary**

- 5 PM - Deacons Meeting

- 6 PM – Soup Supper at Calvary

- 7 PM – Lenten Service at Calvary

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Mar 3 – Mathis'

Mar 10 –

Mar 17 –

Mar 24 –