

**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**April 7, 2024**  
United Church of Christ - Neillsville  
Pastor Sue Vornholt

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**PRELUDE**

Holly Pisors

**RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Our Shared Life and Service (announcements) 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**

Sing a new song!

**A Springtime shout-out to life!**

Sing praise to our joyful Easter God

**Whose power brings new life out of death!**

Immerse doubt and despair in the fountain of new birth

**Find refreshment and strength for a future of hope!**

For God has taken ordinary things

**And made them extraordinary**

**All: Sing a New Song!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Holy God, God of abundance, we are thankful for the  
beauty all around us. Weave us together in a life full of  
goodness and joy. Help us to move in harmony with one  
another and with all Creation. Let us travel on your path  
toward release in your presence. Amen.

**HYMN** *"This Is the Day"*

**#84 NCH**

Les Garrett

**1 This is the day, this is the day  
that our God has made, that our God has made;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice  
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.**

**This is the day that our God has made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day, this is the day that our God has  
made.**

**2 This is the day, this is the day  
Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice  
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.**

**This is the day Jesus rose again;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again.**

**3 This is the day, this is the day  
when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice  
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.**

**This is the day when the Spirit came;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day, this is the day when the Spirit  
came.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Redeeming God, with you there is always more life,  
more hope, more joy. When doubt assails us, and we  
fail to recognize you at work in our lives,

**Lord, have mercy!**

When fear impairs our faith, and our eyes and ears and  
hearts do not know you, **Christ, have mercy!**

When anger and sorrow stop us from doing the risky  
work of love,

**Lord, have mercy!**

**WORDS OF GRACE**

Within every kernel of doubt, there is a spark of life and  
hope. In those times when our faith falters, when we  
cannot recognize the presence of the Holy among us,  
God takes our faith and transforms it, patiently showing  
us the many ways Christ walks among us. Look around  
you: as close as your own beating heart, and in the eyes  
of your nearest neighbor, grace abounds at the heart of  
all life. You are all God's children, loved without  
condition, go in that peace. 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 words such 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 READINGS**

#### **GOSPEL LESSON**

**John 20:19-31**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**SERMON** "The Gift of a Story" Pastor Sue

## **HYMN** "Let Us Break Bread Together"

### **#330 NCH**

**1 Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.**

**Refrain:**

**When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.**

**2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]**

**3 Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]**

## **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**Communion Prayer:**

Pastor: God be with you

**All: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God**

Let us give thanks to God most high.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life... With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy in your holy name.

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal Jesus took bread and after giving thanks to you, broke bread, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said, "This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, for all things are ready.

## **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**

In a world that lives out of scarcity  
You call us to a life of abundance  
You offer grace and mercy  
You heal us  
You carry us.  
In you, we live.  
In you, we move.  
In you, we are made whole.  
Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God

### **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)**

May these gifts be used to bring life and love and  
liberation for this world that God so dearly loves.  
Amen.

## HYMN *"Peace I Leave with You, My Friends"*

#249 NCH Ray Repp

### **Refrain**

Peace I leave with you, my friends:  
Shalom my peace, in all you do.  
Peace I leave with you, my friends,  
I give to you, so you can give to others, too.

1 To share God's love is why I came,  
To show God's kindness without end.  
Go now my friends and do the same,  
Until I come again... [Refrain]

2 Take my hand and be at peace,  
The spirit of our love I send;  
And with this love you will be free,  
Until I come again... [Refrain]

3 With this love now all will know,  
That loneliness is at an end,  
Rejoice my friends, although I go,  
For I will come again...! [Refrain]

## 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 Nancy Rodman  
in celebration of husband,  
Kirk Rodman's 90th birthday

## 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, April 7, 2024

<https://youtube.com/live/rDIVIjiXoc0>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sunday, April 7th – Worship

- 10 AM Deacon Host – Wayne Voss  
Greeter(s) – Carole Romens & Audrey Vradenburg  
Usher(s) – Ben Mathis,

### Tuesday, April 9th –

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

### Wednesday, April 10th –

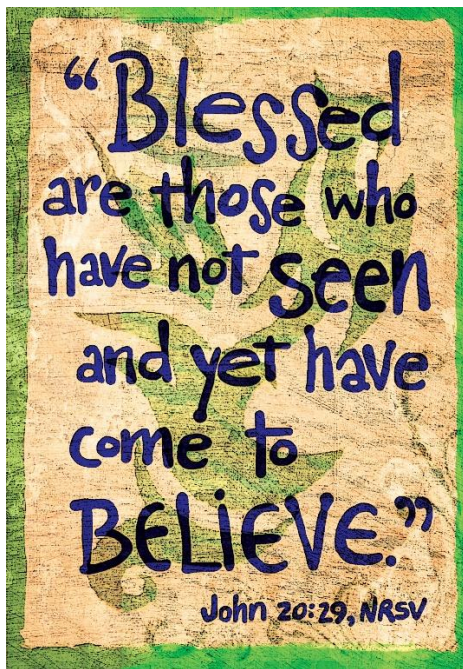
- 6 PM – Deacon's Meeting

### Thursday, April 11th –

- 1:30 PM – Circle of Friends Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship -  
Sign up on back bulletin board

Apr 7 – Rodman’s  
Apr 14 – Bonnie Shaw  
Apr 21 – Mission & Outreach  
Apr 28 – Susie Karl



## Free Ham Lunch



April 21, 2024

11:00 am - 12:00 Noon

United Church of Christ-Neillsville

515 West 2nd Street

Fellowship Hall

Meal Giveaway-Chicken Tetrazzini prepared by Living Hope  
10:45-11:00 am