

## Trinity Sunday

May 26, 2024

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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The Living Water refreshes us. The Holy Spirit strengthens us.

**Bless the name of our God!**

### PRELUDE "America the Beautiful"

Lani Smith Karen Mohr

### RINGING OF THE CARILLON

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### REMEMBER: PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

We remember and we pray for our soldiers who laid down their lives for their friends and fellow citizens;

**We remember, and we pray for those who put the health and well-being of others above their own;**

We remember and we pray for those who did not lay down their lives, but who suffered physical, emotional, or mental damage and need healing;

**We remember and we pray for those families who are grieving;**

We remember and we pray for those soldiers and military family members who need our ongoing support and care;

**We remember and we pray for our leaders to honor our soldiers, and all of us, by leading with wisdom and restraint;**

We remember and we pray for the example of Jesus Christ to be the vision of service for all of us, wherever we are and wherever we are;

**We long for and we pray for a world filled with peace, where we no longer need to lay down our lives for our friends anymore.**

On this Sunday before Memorial Day, we pray all of this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ, **AMEN.**

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 29)

Let all heaven and earth give glory and power to God!  
**Give God the honor due with worshipful reverence and awe!**

The Voice speaks and we hear. The Voice thunders and creation moves.

**The Voice is strong and mighty, secure and majestic.**

### HYMN "Come Now, Almighty God"

#275 NCH Felice de Giardini

**1** Come now, Almighty God, help us your name to laud; our songs we raise:

Ruler all glorious, o'er all victorious,  
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!

**2** Come now, Incarnate Word,  
by heaven and earth adored; our prayer attend;  
Come, and your people bless, and give your word success;  
grant us your holiness, Savior and Friend!

**3** Come, holy Comforter,  
your sacred witness bear in this glad hour.  
Your grace to us impart, now rule in every heart,  
never from us depart, Spirit of power!

**4** To you, great One in Three,  
eternal praises be for evermore.  
Your sovereign majesty may we in glory see,  
and to eternity love and adore.

### OPENING PRAYER (All)

God of majesty and power, how awesome you are to us! The mountains tremble, the seas roar at the sound of your name! Yet you have chosen to come to us in love and tenderness. You have poured out your Holy Spirit upon us. You have called us to act in ways of peace and justice in your world. Open our hearts and our spirits, Lord, to hear your word, and having heard, to act in ministries of hope and peace for all your earth. These things we pray in Jesus' Name.  
**AMEN.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (All)

**O Holy God, we acknowledge to you, to ourselves, and to one another that we are not what you have called us to be. We have not stood by our faith, shared our hope, or reached out with love. We have done unkind and shameful deeds, and we have left undone deeds which could have made a difference in the lives of those around us. We have failed to speak and act for peace and justice in our world. Have mercy upon our repentance, forgive our sin, and change our lives, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF GRACE**

### **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".

**RESPONSE:** "Gloria Patri" NCH #759

**Glorify to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,  
Three-in-One;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **FIRST LESSON**

##### **Isaiah 6:1-8**

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." <sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

### **John 3:1-17**

<sup>3</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>"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. <sup>17</sup>"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.

**SERMON** "Lost and Found"

Pastor Julie

**HYMN** "Here I Am, Lord"

Dan Schuette

**1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?**

**Refrain:**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them,  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my Word to them.  
Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

### 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 from "Finlandia" Jean Sibelius*

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)

Generous God, May we give gifts that are  
sufficient and abundant as you have provided  
creation with all that we need to flourish. May  
the fear of scarcity give way to the joy of  
sharing. Magnify the resources we bring and  
cultivate generosity within us so that all needs  
are met, and all your people may be well and  
whole in your name. Amen.

HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy"

#277 NCH

Reginald Heber

1 Holy, holy, holy! God the Almighty!

Early in the morning we praise your majesty,

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! Saints adore you truly,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim, bow before you only,  
From the beginning, God eternally.

3 Holy, holy, holy! though we know but dimly,  
though the eyes of humankind your glory may not  
see;

You alone are holy, you alone are worthy,  
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! God the Almighty!  
All your works shall praise your name in earth and  
sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

### 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 Frances Short  
in memory of  
Kenneth Short and our parents

## 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, May 26, 2024  
<https://youtube.com/live/adBimvSYj8l>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Sunday, May 26th – Worship time change**

**- 9 AM** Deacon Host – Byrl Buddenhagen  
Greeter(s) – Jim & Rosie Repinski  
Usher(s) – Mike & Deb Perkl

### **Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> -**

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

### **Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**

**- 1 PM – Caregiving Team Meeting**

### **Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> –**

**- 3:30 until 8 PM – Vacation Bible School**

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

Sign up on back bulletin board

May 26 - Kathy Mathis  
June 2 – JoAnn Voss  
June 9 –  
June 16 -

We need people to sign up

We will begin our summer worship

schedule on

Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

Time will change from  
10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. thru  
Labor Day weekend.



Dear God,

*As our nation pauses to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, we give thanks for these men and women, and their families. They sacrificed their lives fighting for our freedom, fighting for the freedom of others, and fighting for justice. They willingly went knowing they wouldn't return the same.*

*God, we're reminded of the example of your Son, Jesus, who willingly sacrificed His life for all of humanity. He painted the picture of what love through sacrifice looks like. Few would be willing to lay down their life for a stranger, but these men and women went, making the ultimate sacrifice of love.*

*As we remember these brave men and women, we cannot forget those who loved them and served with them. Lord, be their peace on this day. Soothe any anger or disillusionment over why their loved one was taken. Lift up their hearts. Be their source of comfort. Give them Your strength on this day and every single day going forward. Lord, help us remember, not just on Memorial Day, but throughout the year, the sacrifice others have made.*

*May it embolden us and challenge us to live a life of love, courage, and bravery. Amen.*



**Vacation Bible School**

**COME JOIN THE FUN AT  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
IN NEILLSVILLE**

**WHEN: Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**from 3:30 PM until 8 PM**

**LOCATION: LOWER-LEVEL  
AT UCC/TOCK FIELD**

Registration available on the Neillsville UCC  
Facebook page post via Google forms or by  
contacting Stephanie at 920-948-7783.

Light snack and supper provided.

For more information,  
call the church office at 715-743-2147  
or contact Stephanie at 920-948-7783.