

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"Prelude in Classic Style"* Gordon Young
Deon Spangler

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ gives us a new commandment:

ALL: "Love one another as I have loved you."

One: When we love one another as Christ has loved us,
we will live lives full of joy.

ALL: We will live with God's love deep in our hearts.

One: Let us worship the one who shows us how to love.

ALL: Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!

HYMN *"I Come With Joy"*

#349 NCH Brian Wren Arr. Austin Lovelace

1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

4 And thus we meet, and better know
the Presence, ever near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy
that Christ is risen here,
that Christ is risen here.

5 Together met, together bound
in friendship we will stay,
And go with joy to love the world
and live the way we pray,
and live the way we pray.

OPENING PRAYER (All)

One: Let the whole earth praise the Lord! Let the
mountains and hills proclaim God's handiwork! Let the
seas roar and the waves crash in symphonies of praise!
Let all creation sing God's new song of love!

**Many: Praise be to God who has created and is
creating anew! Praise be to God who re-creates God's
love in us each day!**

**ALL: Loving, creative God, we praise and bless you for
your mighty acts of creation. As we gather here this
day we hear your message of power and love through
the witness of Jesus Christ as he prepared his disciples
for his departure. He gave to them the words of
encouragement about living in your love, and through
that love being witnesses to the whole world of your
peace and hope. Be with us this day, Lord. Open our
hearts and minds to receive your word. AMEN.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (All)

Jesus, our sibling and friend, we confess that we do
not always love one another. Our divisions and
disagreements so often prevent us from knowing the
joy of meaningful relationships. Even as we seek to
follow your example, we forget that we are chosen
and appointed by you to bring hope to a weary world.
Help us renew our focus and live by your will that we
may follow you with joy in our hearts. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Jesus no longer calls us servants, but friends. Each relationship is a new opportunity to abide in Christ's love, and a reminder that we can start again.

ALL: We are forgiven. 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 words such as "The peace of Christ be with you, and the response: "And also with you".

RESPONSE: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" Chorus #498 NCH

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST LESSON

Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments.

And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:9-17

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

SERMON "Chosen" Pastor Julie

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

HYMN "As We Gather at Your Table" Carl P. Daw, Jr. #332 NCH

**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 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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

One: God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

ALL: it is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: We offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!

Hosanna in the highest!

One: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

ALL: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

All are welcome to partake in the Feast of our Lord.

The table is open to people of all ages who confess Christ as Lord and seek to follow Christ's way.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (All)

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

HYMN *"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"*

#347 NCH

Fred Kaan

**1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**2 Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

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 Doris Bakker
in honor of all Mothers



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 5, 2024

<https://youtube.com/live/ouY57JISfJg>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, May 5th – Worship

- 10 AM Deacon Host – Karlene Wallace
- Greeter(s) – Lydia Schumacher, Karen Northup
- Usher(s) – Craig Heck Karl, Scott Williams

Monday, May 6th –

- 9 AM – Card Making

Tuesday, May 7th –

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

Thursday, May 9th –

- 1:30 PM – Circle of Friends Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

- May 5 – Lydia Schumacher, Karen Northup
- May 12 – Mother's Day/Confirmation -
Christian Ed
- May 19 – Graduation Sunday – Carole Romens
- May 26 - Kathy Mathis