

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE "Morning Mood" Eduard Grieg
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Holy One, defender of the poor and needy,
calls us to gather now.

**We come, thankful to be a part
of this family of faith.**

God knows us well and calls us by name.

We hear our name and respond to God's call.

The love of Christ urges us on.

OPENING PRAYER (All)

**God of small seeds and mighty plants, you take our
meager lives and with your love cause them to
produce acts of loving kindness for you in this world.
You hear our cries and find us when we are lost and
wandering in fear. You bring us home with you so
that we may be made whole, rejoicing in your
goodness. Help us to joyfully serve you all our days,
knowing that you are always watching over us.
Prepare our hearts to receive your word and our
spirits to respond in eagerness to serve you. In Jesus'
name, we pray. Amen.**

HYMN "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" Natalie Sleeth
#433 NCH

**1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.**

**From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

LITANY FOR FATHER'S DAY

written by

Rev. Mindi, Rev-o-lution blog. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

On this day we recognize our fathers and stepfathers,
those who have nurtured and guided us in our lives.

**We thank You, O God,
for those who have been fathers to us.**

We honor our grandfathers, our uncles and brothers,
those who have demonstrated love and care to us in
our lives.

**We thank You, O God,
for those who have been like fathers to us.**

We appreciate our teachers, leaders and pastors,
who have been both male and female, but we
especially honor those who have extended fatherly
tenderness and love in our lives in our past and
present.

**We thank You, O God,
for those who have fulfilled a fatherly role in our
lives.**

Loving God, You have been both Mother and Father to
us. Abba, Father, we remember how Jesus called out
to You on earth, recognizing that You are closer to us
than our earthly parents. Your love and care for us are
felt in the ways we are loved and cared for by others.

**We thank You, O God,
for all the male figures in our lives who have shared
Your love with us.**

We ask that You guide and nurture new fathers and fathers-to-be. We seek Your forgiveness for fathers who have fallen short, for models of fatherhood that were limiting rather than embracing, for that is not Your model.

You are our ever-loving Parent, Father of us all. Grant Your wisdom to all fathers and fatherly figures to love their children as You have loved Your children.

**We thank You, O God,
for fatherhood and motherhood,
for the blessing of parents in our lives.**

Abba, Father,
we pray with those who are mourning the loss of fathers today, and for those whose fathers were absent or abusive.
Ease their pain on this day, loving God. May they know Your embrace, and that You are more than Father or Mother to us—
You are the all-loving, all-caring Parent, Creator of heaven and earth, who knows the hairs on our heads.
**We thank You, O God,
that You are always with us,
that You will never leave us or forsake us.**

**We thank You for this day,
and ask that You bless all of Your children with Your love,
as a wonderful father loves their child.
Amen.**

HYMN *"Surely No One Can Be Safer"*
#487 NCH verses 1-2 author Lina Sandell

**1 Surely no one can be safer than God's children,
held in favor,
Not the stars so brightly burning,
not the birds to nests returning.**

**2 With the flock God is abiding,
heaven's plenty all providing,
Rich in mercy, never sparing,
like a father, gently caring.**

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: *"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"*

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 20 (responsive)

Sung Response: *"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"* (Taize)

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer:
When I call, answer me.**

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer:
Come, and listen to me.**

May God answer you in the day of trouble!

The name of the God of Jacob protect you!

May God send you help from the sanctuary,
and give you support from Zion.

**May God remember all your offerings,
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices.**

May God grant you your heart's desire,
and fulfill all your plans.

Sung Response: *"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"* (Taize)

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer:
When I call, answer me.**

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer:
Come, and listen to me.**

May we shout for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God set up our banners.

May God fulfill all your petitions.

Now I know that God will help God's anointed,
and will answer them from God's holy heaven with mighty victories by God's strong hand.

**Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses,
but our pride is in the name of the Sovereign our God.**

They will collapse and fall, but we shall rise and stand upright.

**Give victory to the ruler, O God;
answer us when we call.**

Sung Response: *"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"* (Taize)

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer:
When I call, answer me.**

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer:
Come, and listen to me.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 4:26-34

²⁶He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,

²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

SERMON "Growing Wild and Free" Pastor Julie

HYMN "Soil of God, You and I"

Words and Music: Jim Hannah, 1995

**1 Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear
seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.
Growing in everyone, for here God is found.
All stand together, we are holy ground.**

**2 Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be
part of God's promise, for others to see.
Open to everyone, for here God is found.
All stand together, we are holy ground.**

**3 Soil of God, you and I, now called to rebirth,
joining as partners with all of the earth.
Living in harmony, for here God is found.
All stand together, this is holy ground.**

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 "A Simple Prayer" E Grieg
arr. Lani Smith

Doxology

**Praise God the Source of life and birth.
Praise God the Word, who came to earth.
Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen**

Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, magnificent, sustaining farmer of
the future, receive these gifts, we pray.
Through our offering, help us know in some
surprising way that you are bringing into
being something wonderful and new. Amen.**

HYMN "We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed"

#540 NCH vs. 1-3, 6 Mary Bryan Matney

**1 We plant a grain of mustard seed,
and in our faith we find
the proof of God is love, indeed,
which blossoms from its kind;
the proof of God is love, indeed,
which blossoms from its kind.**

**2 Our actions, more than words,
define how love's example feeds
a greater love, for love divine
bursts forth from smallest seeds;
a greater love, for love divine
bursts forth from smallest seeds.**

**3 When stooped to lend a helping hand,
we find a touch that heals,
for love invested will expand
to bear the fruit love yields;
for love invested will expand
to bear the fruit love yields.**

**6 Our lives will be fulfilled and blessed
if through the seeds we've sown
and by the love that we profess
the love of Christ is known;
and by the love that we profess
the love of Christ is known.**

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 fathers this Father's Day.

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, June 16, 2024
https://youtube.com/live/4dmF55A_AVA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, June 16th – Worship

- 9 AM Deacon Host – Wayne Voss
Greeter(s) – Doris Bakker, Ellie Keller
Usher(s) – Emile Miller, Marla Raine

Monday, June 17th – Card Making

Tuesday, June 18th -

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

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

June 16 – Bonnie & Ray Weyer
June 23 –
June 30 -

We need people to sign up



JUNE 16, 2024

FARM TO TABLE GIVEAWAY

10:00-10:15 A.M.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - NEILLSVILLE

515 WEST 2ND STREET

SUMMER SERVICES 9:00 A.M.

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