

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 14, 2024

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"* J.S. Bach
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, sing and dance before the Lord.

Praise God with the sound of music and dancing!

Let every soul sing God's praises!

Let the mountains tremble and the seas roar!

Praise the King of glory who guides our lives.

Praise the Lord of hosts who watches over us.

OPENING PRAYER (All)

Creator God, in praise and adoration our spirits
dance before you today. You have created this
wondrous universe and all the magnificent things
within it. You have blessed us with so much
throughout our lives, even to this day of praise and
thanksgiving. Let our spirits soar! Let our hearts sing
**boldly of your wondrous love. We celebrate your
love and presence with us, and it is in the name of
your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, that we offer this
prayer. AMEN.**

HYMN *"Creator God We Sing"* Carlos Rosas

#39 NCH

**1 Creator God we sing,
a hymn of joy we're making;
our grateful love we bring,
as the new day's light is breaking.
God made the sea and land;
the sun and stars came rolling
from God's own loving hand,
their Creator's love extolling.**

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Creator God we sing: Alleluia!

**2 Creator God we sing,
your power and wisdom blessing;
our hope and wonder bring,
admiration now expressing.
The universe maintains
that God in might is dwelling;
and we, in humble strains,
of God's beauty here are telling. [Refrain]**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Righteous God, you have created us in your image to
reflect your holiness. You have affirmed the
goodness within us. We struggle to be the people you
call us to be. You have given us the guidance of the
Law and the wisdom of the Prophets and the gift of
your Presence. Still, we struggle against the pull to go
our own direction without your counsel. We fail to
extend the grace and compassion you give to us. Be
merciful in your judgment while holding us
accountable for your justice as we strive to live the
fullness of life in you. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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: "We Are Marching in the Light of God"
SIYAHAMBA

#526 NCH

**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God (the light of God)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching)
Oo, we are marching in the light of God. (light of God)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching)
Oo, we are marching in the light of God.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT **Amos 7:7-15**

⁷ Then he showed me another vision. I saw the Lord standing beside a wall that had been built using a plumb line. He was using a plumb line to see if it was still straight. ⁸ And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" I answered, "A plumb line."

And the Lord replied, "I will test my people with this plumb line. I will no longer ignore all their sins. ⁹ The pagan shrines of your ancestors will be ruined, and the temples of Israel will be destroyed; I will bring the dynasty of King Jeroboam to a sudden end."

¹⁰ Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent a message to Jeroboam, king of Israel: "Amos is hatching a plot against you right here on your very doorstep! What he is saying is intolerable. ¹¹ He is saying, 'Jeroboam will soon be killed, and the people of Israel will be sent away into exile.'"

¹² Then Amaziah sent orders to Amos: "Get out of here, you prophet! Go on back to the land of Judah, and earn your living by prophesying there! ¹³ Don't bother us with your prophecies here in Bethel. This is the king's sanctuary and the national place of worship!"

¹⁴ But Amos replied, "I'm not a professional prophet, and I was never trained to be one. I'm just a shepherd, and I take care of sycamore-fig trees. ¹⁵ But the Lord called me away from my flock and told me, 'Go and prophesy to my people in Israel.'

OLD TESTAMENT **Psalms 85:8-13**

Response (All Sing):

Show us your steadfast love, O God, and grant us your salvation.

⁸ I listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying,
for he speaks peace to his faithful people.

But let them not return to their foolish ways.

⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
so our land will be filled with his glory.

Response (All Sing):

Show us your steadfast love, O God, and grant us your salvation.

¹⁰ Unfailing love and truth have met together.
Righteousness and peace have kissed!

¹¹ Truth springs up from the earth,
and righteousness smiles down from heaven.

¹² Yes, the Lord pours down his blessings.

Our land will yield its bountiful harvest.

¹³ Righteousness goes as a herald before him,
preparing the way for his steps.

Response (All Sing):

Show us your steadfast love, O God, and grant us your salvation.

NEW TESTAMENT

Mark 6:14-29

The Death of John the Baptist

¹⁴ Herod Antipas, the king, soon heard about Jesus, because everyone was talking about him. Some were saying, "This must be John the Baptist raised from the dead. That is why he can do such miracles." ¹⁵ Others said, "He's the prophet Elijah." Still others said, "He's a prophet like the other great prophets of the past."

¹⁶ When Herod heard about Jesus, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has come back from the dead."

¹⁷ For Herod had sent soldiers to arrest and imprison John as a favor to Herodias. She had been his brother Philip's wife, but Herod had married her. ¹⁸ John had been telling Herod, "It is against God's law for you to marry your brother's wife." ¹⁹ So Herodias bore a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But without Herod's approval she was powerless, ²⁰ for Herod respected John; and knowing that he was a good and holy man, he protected him. Herod was greatly disturbed whenever he talked with John, but even so, he liked to listen to him.

²¹ Herodias's chance finally came on Herod's birthday. He gave a party for his high government officials, army officers, and the leading citizens of Galilee. ²² Then his daughter, also named Herodias, came in and performed a dance that greatly pleased Herod and his guests. "Ask me for anything you like," the king said to the girl, "and I will give it to you." ²³ He even vowed, "I will give you whatever you ask, up to half my kingdom!"

²⁴ She went out and asked her mother, "What should I ask for?" Her mother told her, "Ask for the head of John the Baptist!"

²⁵ So the girl hurried back to the king and told him, "I want the head of John the Baptist, right now, on a tray!"

²⁶ Then the king deeply regretted what he had said; but because of the vows he had made in front of his guests, he couldn't refuse her.

²⁷ So he immediately sent an executioner to the prison to cut off John's head and bring it to him. The soldier beheaded John in the prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a tray, and gave it to the girl, who took it to her mother. ²⁹ When John's disciples heard what had happened, they came to get his body and buried it in a tomb.

HYMN *"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"*
#588 NCH Jane Parker Huber

1 Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.

2 Let righteousness roll on
as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith
translated into deed.

3 So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade
this world our whole life through.

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 *"Be Thou But Near"* J.S. Bach

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)

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts of life and living. We give thanks by bringing our resources to community, to be shared and used for your kingdom, in our ministry, and for the world we inhabit. Bless and facilitate our generosity beyond our imagination. Amen.

HYMN *"God, We Thank You for Our People"*
#376 NCH Ruth Duck

1 God, we thank you for our people,
roots dug deep within the soil,
hardy spirits, rich in loving
strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful Rock of generations,
you whom parents' parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember
may our song to you be raised.

2 Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure:
lessons learned and secrets told,
hopes and memories saved as treasure,
passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glories, songs and stories,
food by loving hands prepared.
God, we bless you for your presence
in our tears and laughter shared.

3 Still we must confess before you,
sometimes, Savior, we have failed;
though we worship and adore you,
sometimes love has not prevailed.
Tempers racing, devil chasing,
hearts estranged by ice or flame
You transform by ways forgiving.
Grace amazing! Grace, your name!

4 By your Spirit of creation
keep us bold for risking still,
eager in anticipation,
ever strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one another,
sharing life and death and birth.
Welcoming as sister, brother,
All your children on the earth.

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 Wally & Pat Garbisch
in celebration of Pat's 84th birthday.



WELCOME

We welcome you to our service of worship!
We are glad that you have joined us on site,
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, July 14, 2024
<https://youtube.com/live/MqxvmxAJpDk>

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

July 14 – Carole Romens
July 21 – **No coffee fellowship following service** as we
will be serving refreshments after the 3 PM installation
July 28 - Sharon Buddenhagen
We need people to sign up

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, July 14th –

- **9 AM** Deacon Host – Wayne Voss
Greeter(s) – Nancy Boon, Dorothy Steiger
Usher(s) – Hap Eddy, Roger Carl
PowerPoint – Bonnie Weyer

Monday, July 15th –

- **9 AM** – Card Making

Tuesday, July 9th -

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

JULY 21, 2024

10:00 - 10:15 AM

**MEAL
GIVEAWAY**

UCC - NEILLSVILLE

515 WEST SECOND STREET

