

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 21, 2024
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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RINGING OF THE CARILLON

PRELUDE *"Fairest Lord Jesus"*
with *"My Heart Ever Faithful"* arr. by Anna Laura Page
Karen Mohr

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, out of your busy lives to a quiet time and place.
Our souls thirst for some peace and quiet.
Come, and rest in the Lord who will restore your souls.
Our lives need moments of rest.
Come and find the quiet center. Come, be at peace.
**Praise God who offers to us a shelter and resting
place.**

OPENING PRAYER (All)

Lord, we gather here this morning with lives that are
filled with activity and movement. We rush from one
thing to another as though we are going to run out of
time to accomplish everything. Help us to let go of
the hectic times and the stresses and find our rest in
you. Relax our spirits and refresh our souls. Remind
us that there will always be things to do and places
to go, but that we need the rest of spirit that you
provide. AMEN.

HYMN *"Come and Find the Quiet Center"*
words by Shirley Erene Murray

**1 Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.**

**2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.**

**3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Patient God, we wait all year for the summer months
when we can rest and relax. Our schedules change
from the demands of weekly living to times which
are supposed to be devoted to leisure. But we have
redefined leisure to mean a flurry of activities. We
need some time to rest, to sit quietly and listen to
the beautiful sounds of the world. Forgive us when
we are determined to crowd every moment of our
lives with activity. Help us to find a quiet center with
you where we can just relax and not try to get
everything done as though life was some sort of a
contest. Give us peace for a little while. Refresh our
souls so that we can truly serve you, not out of
exhaustion but out of enthusiasm. Be with us this
day, for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. 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: *“Sanctuary”*

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 23

HYMN *“God is My Shepherd”*

#479 NCH Adapt. Lavon Bayler

1 God is my shepherd, I'll not want,
I feed in pastures green.
God grants me rest and bids me drink
from waters calm and clean.
Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led
by one I have not seen.

2 Restored to life each morning new,
I rise up from the dust
to follow God whose presence gives
me confidence and trust.
I praise the name of God today;
in God I put my trust.

3 When I must pass through shadowed vale,
where loss and death await,
I will not fear for God is there,
my shepherd strong and great,
whose rod and staff will comfort me
and all my fears abate.

4 No enemy can overcome,
no power on earth defeat
the one anointed by God's grace
and fed with manna sweet.
My cup is filled and overflows
as I my Savior greet.

5 Goodness and mercy all my days
will surely follow me;
and where God reigns in heaven and earth,
my dwelling place will be.
My shepherd blesses, cares, and leads
through all eternity.

NEW TESTAMENT Ephesians 2:11-22

Oneness and Peace in Christ

¹¹ Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called “uncircumcised heathens” by the

Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. ¹² In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. ¹³ But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. ¹⁵ He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. ¹⁶ Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

¹⁷ He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸ Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

A Temple for the Lord

¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. ²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

NEW TESTAMENT Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then Jesus said, “Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.” He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat. ³² So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. ³³ But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from

the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

⁵³ After they had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret. They brought the boat to shore ⁵⁴ and climbed out. The people recognized Jesus at once, ⁵⁵ and they ran throughout the whole area, carrying sick people on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ Wherever he went—in villages, cities, or the countryside—they brought the sick out to the marketplaces. They begged him to let the sick touch at least the fringe of his robe, and all who touched him were healed.

SERMON “The United Church of Christ” Pastor Julie

HYMN “Blessed Assurance”

#473 NCH Comp., Phoebe P. Knapp
Author, Fanny Crosby

**1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.**

Refrain:

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

**2 Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]**

**3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.
[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 “Assurance” John Ness Beck

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)

**God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all
our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of
gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you.
Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast
at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and
drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.**

HYMN “The Church’s One Foundation”

#386 NCH Samuel J. Stone

**1 The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ’s new creation by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us
free;
with precious blood Christ bought us for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
one charter of salvation, one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing, one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing, at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.**

**4 Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three-in-One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is
won.
O happy ones and holy! God, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

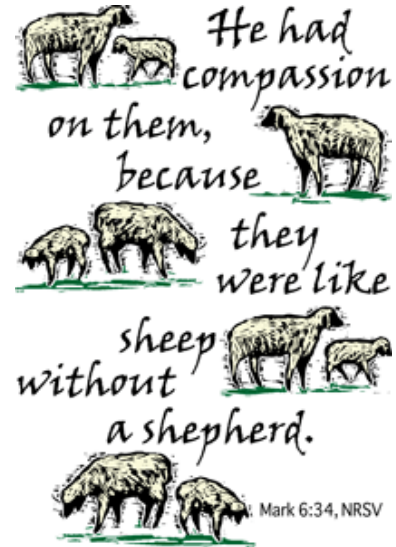
POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO BROADCAST

11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN
98.5FM and 1370AM

This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored by Lori and John Shaw
in loving memory of parents,
Bob & Lorraine Shaw.



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.

Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up on back bulletin board

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

YouTube link for Sunday, July 21, 2024
<https://youtube.com/live/i00ZSpSQkF>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, July 21st -

- 9 AM Deacon Host – Barb Shoemaker
Greeter(s) – Howie & Kathy Mathis
Usher(s) – Corinne & Neil Armitage
PowerPoint – Paul Vine

- 3 PM – Pastor Julie Ruegsegger's
Installation & fellowship to follow

Tuesday, July 23rd -

- 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

