

## Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 7, 2024

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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### PRELUDE "Fantasia on America"

Deon Spangler

### RINGING OF THE CARILLON

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

God's greatness is wondrous to behold.

**Everywhere we look, we can see the imprint of God.**

From the loftiest mountains to the crashing waters of  
the sea,

**There God's greatness stands majestically.**

God's greatness can be within the human heart.

**Let us honor and praise God with acts of loving  
kindness and compassion.**

### HYMN "How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies"

#594 NCH vs 1-3

St.1, Katharine Lee Bates

St.2,3, Miriam Therese Winter

**1 How beautiful, our spacious skies,  
our amber waves of grain;  
our purple mountain as they rise  
above the fruitful plain.  
America! America! God's gracious gifts abound,  
and more and more we're grateful for  
life's bounty all around.**

**2 Indigenous and immigrant,  
our daughters and our sons:  
O may we never rest content  
till all are truly one.**

**America! America! God grant that we may be  
a sisterhood and brotherhood  
from sea to shining sea.**

**3 How beautiful, sincere lament,  
the wisdom born of tears,  
the courage called for to repent  
the blood-shed through the years,  
America! America! Grant that we may be  
a nation blessed with none oppressed,  
True land of liberty.**

### OPENING PRAYER (All)

Lord of mystery and community, you have called us  
here this day to remind us of the mission journey you  
set before us. Help us to pay attention to the words of  
Jesus as he sent out his disciples on a mission of healing  
and compassion. Remind us that success is not  
measured in the cures, but in the striving. Enable us to  
truly be your disciples in this world.

In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

### 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:** "Spirit of the Living God" Daniel Iverson  
#283 NCH

**Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall afresh on me,  
Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall afresh on me.**

### INDEPENDENCE DAY LITANY

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God of love and mercy,

You have lavished your creative might on this land, giving  
us an abundance of natural beauty and resources.

**Lord, may we always remember that this earth is yours  
and we are its caretakers. Guide us that we may use  
what you have given us with care and thanksgiving.**

God of love and mercy,  
You shower us with mercy not condemnation, with love  
not hate, with acceptance not fear.

**Lord, may we always remember that justice is more  
than law. Give us the wisdom to see injustice disguised  
as “protection,” and the courage and knowledge to  
challenge such laws.**

God of love and mercy,  
You have blessed this land of ours with more riches than  
most of the world can comprehend, and with an energy  
and vitality that can produce wonders and marvels.  
**Lord, may we always act to share our wealth, taking the  
gifts you have given us to the world, reaching out to  
friend and foe, alike.**

God of love and mercy,  
You have blessed this land, making it a great and  
wonderful place to live and work and play. Instill in us  
the humility which comes from the knowledge that we  
have done nothing to deserve the blessings we have.  
**Sensitize us to the dignity of all people that we may  
respect their individuality of culture and spirituality.  
Lead us to understand their needs within the context of  
their lives. Supply us with the wisdom to assist them  
without imposing our customs upon them. Continue to  
direct and enlighten us that we may be servants to the  
world and all peoples. We ask this in Jesus’ name, who  
is God yet servant to us all. Amen.**

**RESPONSE:** *“This is My Song”* Lloyd Stone  
#591 NCH

**1 This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;  
But other hearts in other lands are beating  
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**2 My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean,  
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;  
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.  
O hear my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for their land for mine.**

### CHILDREN’S TIME

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

### OLD TESTAMENT      **Ezekiel 2:1-5 (NLT)**

#### **Ezekiel’s Call and Commission**

2 <sup>1</sup>“Stand up, son of man,” said the voice. “I want to  
speak with you.” <sup>2</sup>The Spirit came into me as he spoke,  
and he set me on my feet. I listened carefully to his  
words. <sup>3</sup>“Son of man,” he said, “I am sending you to  
the nation of Israel, a rebellious nation that has  
rebelled against me. They and their ancestors have  
been rebelling against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup>They are a  
stubborn and hard-hearted people. But I am sending  
you to say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord  
says!’ <sup>5</sup>And whether they listen or refuse  
to listen—for remember, they are rebels—at least  
they will know they have had a prophet among them.

### GOSPEL LESSON      **Mark 6:1-13 (NLT)**

#### **Jesus Rejected at Nazareth**

6 <sup>1</sup>Jesus left that part of the country and returned with  
his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown. <sup>2</sup>The next  
Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many  
who heard him were amazed. They asked, “Where did he  
get all this wisdom and the power to perform such  
miracles?” <sup>3</sup>Then they scoffed, “He’s just a carpenter, the  
son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and  
Simon. And his sisters live right here among us.” They  
were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.

<sup>4</sup>Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored  
everywhere except in his own hometown and among his  
relatives and his own family.” <sup>5</sup> And because of their  
unbelief, he couldn’t do any miracles among them  
except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal  
them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their unbelief.

#### **Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Disciples**

Then Jesus went from village to village, teaching the  
people. <sup>7</sup>And he called his twelve disciples together and  
began sending them out two by two, giving them  
authority to cast out evil spirits. <sup>8</sup>He told them to take  
nothing for their journey except a walking stick—no  
food, no traveler’s bag, no money. <sup>9</sup> He allowed them to  
wear sandals but not to take a change of clothes.

<sup>10</sup> “Wherever you go,” he said, “stay in the same house  
until you leave town. <sup>11</sup> But if any place refuses to  
welcome you or listen to you, shake its dust from your  
feet as you leave to show that you have abandoned  
those people to their fate.”

<sup>12</sup> So the disciples went out, telling everyone they met to  
repent of their sins and turn to God. <sup>13</sup> And they cast out  
many demons and healed many sick people, anointing  
them with olive oil.

**SERMON** “Shake it off”      Pastor Julie

**HYMN** "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

#495 NCH

Jane Parker Huber

1 Called as partners in Christ's service,  
Called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
Side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfill God's chosen end.

2 Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,  
Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering,  
Reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer,  
All God's people, young and old,  
Blending human skills together  
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

3 Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,  
In a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other's burdens,  
Breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision,  
Words of challenge, said with care,  
Bring new power and strength for action,  
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

4 So God grant us for tomorrow  
Ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow  
With a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living,  
Our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving  
Hope and confidence and peace.

**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

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation to the Table**

**Great Thanksgiving**

God is here.

**God's Spirit is with us,**

Let us open our hearts.

**We open them to God and one another.**

Let us give thanks.

**We thank God with joy.**

... with the communion of the saints, with angels,  
archangels, cherubim and seraphim, all the hosts of  
heaven, in one voice with all creation we say:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of infinite love,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our  
God.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**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  
Jesus 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**

**THE OFFERING SERVICE**

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory National Hymn "God of Our Fathers"

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)**

**Creator, all we have emanates from you and your  
creation. Receive these gifts we give with  
thanksgiving and hope for a shared future without  
lack, disparities, and unmet needs. Amen**

**HYMN** "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"  
#76 NCH

1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended. Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.  
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God's grace did invite us, your love shall unite us  
to work for God's realm and to answer the call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.  
With your grace you feed us, with your light now  
lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

**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 Jerry Quicker  
in loving memory of sons,  
Mike and Paul

**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, July 7, 2024  
<https://youtube.com/live/bpvF45m-ij8>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday, July 7th -**

- 9 AM Deacon Host – JoAnn Wren  
Greeter(s) – Audrey Vradenburg, Jim Vradenburg  
Usher(s) – Russ Karl, Paul Schmidt

**Tuesday, July 9th -**

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

**Wednesday, July 10th -**

- 1 PM - Stewardship Comm. Mtg.  
- 5 PM – Deacons Mtg.

**Thursday, July 11th -**

- 1:30 PM - Circle of Friends Mtg.

**Coffee fellowship after worship -**

Sign up on back bulletin board

July 7 – Karlene Wallace, JoAnn Wren  
July 14 – Carole Romens  
July 21 – No coffee fellowship following service as we  
will be serving refreshments after the 3 PM installation

We need people to sign up

**JULY 21, 2024**

**10:00-10:15 AM**

**MEAL  
GIVEAWAY**

**UCC - NEILLSVILLE  
515 WEST SECOND STREET**

