

## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 18, 2024

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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### RINGING OF THE CARILLON

PRELUDE "Sweet Hour of Prayer" with "Nocturne"

Felix Mendelssohn

Karen Mohr

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, and praise God!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Great are the works of God,  
full of glory and majesty.**

Our God is gracious and compassionate;

**Our God is merciful and forgiving,**

Our God is faithful and trustworthy,

**Our God is just and good.**

So come, let's worship God together.

**God's praise will last forever!**

#### OPENING PRAYER (All)

Holy God, we come together in your presence to offer worship, thanksgiving, and praise. We remember your covenant and acknowledge your abiding presence. Envelop us in your glory, strengthen us to confront the weariness of the world, challenge us to spread the good news, and empower us to be the church you have created us to be. Amen.

#### HYMN "Gather Us In"

Words & Music: Marty Haugen

**1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
Shadows of doubt are vanished away.**

**See in this space our fears and our dreamings,  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.**

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;**

**Gather us in, the blind and the lame.**

**Call to us now and we shall awaken;**

**We shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**2 We are the young, our lives are a mystery.**

**We are the old who yearn for your face.**

**We have been sung throughout all of history,  
Called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty.  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong.  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
Give us the courage to enter the song.**

**3 Here we receive new life in the waters;  
Here we receive the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;  
Give us to eat the bread that is you.  
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion  
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**4 Not just in buildings small and confining,  
Not in some heaven light years away,  
But here in this place the new light is shining;  
Now is God present and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever.  
Gather us in and make us your own.  
Gather us in, all peoples together,  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones.**

#### PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Holy God, we find wisdom in your word, in your presence, and in your way. Help us to follow the path of love, community, and sharing. Open our awareness to the unmet needs in our community and the ways we may meet them. Open our compassion to notice those who too often go without being acknowledged. Open our schedules to be present to your Spirit, our neighbors, and ourselves. Fill us with wisdom, peace, and hope to move boldly toward new life and the fullness of joy.

#### WORDS OF GRACE

##### 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 111**

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!  
I will thank the Lord with all my heart  
as I meet with his godly people.
- <sup>2</sup> How amazing are the deeds of the Lord!  
All who delight in him should ponder them.
- <sup>3</sup> Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty.  
His righteousness never fails.
- <sup>4</sup> He causes us to remember his wonderful works.  
How gracious and merciful is our Lord!
- <sup>5</sup> He gives food to those who fear him;  
he always remembers his covenant.
- <sup>6</sup> He has shown his great power to his people  
by giving them the lands of other nations.
- <sup>7</sup> All he does is just and good,  
and all his commandments are trustworthy.
- <sup>8</sup> They are forever true,  
to be obeyed faithfully and with integrity.
- <sup>9</sup> He has paid a full ransom for his people.  
He has guaranteed his covenant with them forever.  
What a holy, awe-inspiring name he has!
- <sup>10</sup> Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom.  
All who obey his commandments will grow in  
wisdom.  
Praise him forever!

**NEW TESTAMENT      Ephesians 5:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. <sup>18</sup> Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>19</sup> singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**John 6:51-58**

<sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh.”

<sup>52</sup> Then the people began arguing with each other about what he meant. “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” they asked.

<sup>53</sup> So Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. <sup>54</sup> But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day. <sup>55</sup> For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> I live because of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> I am the true bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did (even though they ate the manna) but will live forever.”

**HYMN      “Bread of Life, Feed My Soul”**

Words & Music: Stephen Spencer

**1 Bread of life, feed my soul  
As the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.  
Bread of life, fill my heart  
With the grace and mercy you impart.**

**2 Bread of life, help me live  
A life as pure and true as Jesus did.  
Bread of life, help me see  
The boundless love of Christ for you and me.**

**OLD TESTAMENT      1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14**

<sup>10</sup> Then David died and was buried with his ancestors in the City of David. <sup>11</sup> David had reigned over Israel for forty years, seven of them in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. <sup>12</sup> Solomon became king and sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.

<sup>3</sup> Solomon loved the Lord and followed all the decrees of his father, David, except that Solomon, too, offered sacrifices and burned incense at the local places of worship. <sup>4</sup> The most important of these places of worship was at Gibeon, so the king went there and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings. <sup>5</sup> That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, “What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!”

<sup>6</sup> Solomon replied, “You showed great and faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you

have continued to show this great and faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne.

<sup>7</sup> “Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn’t know his way around. <sup>8</sup> And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! <sup>9</sup> Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?”

<sup>10</sup> The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. <sup>11</sup> So God replied, “Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— <sup>12</sup> I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! <sup>13</sup> And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! <sup>14</sup> And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life.”

**SERMON** “The Heart of a Dreamer” Pastor Julie

**HYMN** “Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You”

**#510 NCH** Rae Whitney

**1 Grant us wisdom to perceive you,  
Hearts awakened to receive you,  
Minds alert to thoughts that grieve you,  
God of mercy, hear us.**

**2 Grant us faithfulness in praying,  
Patience keep our souls from straying,  
Sense to cease from disobeying,  
God of mercy, hear us.**

**3 Grant us diligence in doing,  
Patience when your truth pursuing,  
Eager to receive renewing,  
God of mercy, hear us.**

**4 Grant us courage to proclaim you;  
Savior of our lives we name you!  
May our actions never shame you;  
God of mercy, hear us.**

## **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 “My Heart Ever Faithful”

Felix Mendelssohn

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)**

**Generous and Wise God, you give freely and we receive freely. Sow in us discernment, understanding, and wisdom to be good stewards of the bounty we receive and the resources we have earned. Let us treat them all as gifts to be shared so that none will be in want or need to live full and abundant lives.**

**HYMN** “God of Grace and God of Glory”

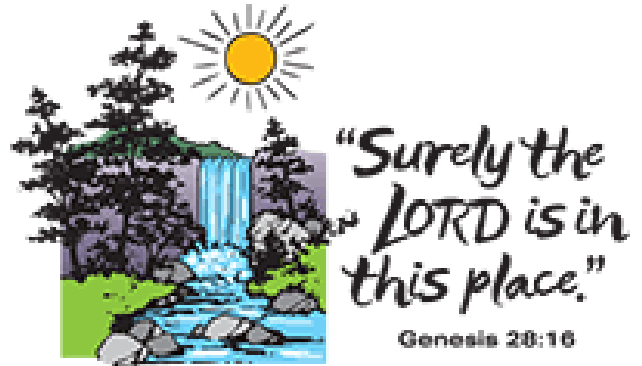
**#436 NCH verses 1-4** Henry Emerson Fosdick

**1 God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your power;  
Crown your ancient church’s story,  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us  
And assail the Savior’s ways,  
From the fears that long have bound us  
Free our hearts for faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children’s warring madness;  
Bend our pride to your control;  
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
Make our broken spirits whole,  
Make our broken spirits whole.**

4 Set our feet on lofty places;  
Gird our lives that they may be  
Armored with all Christ-like graces,  
In the fight to set us free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
In the quest for liberty,  
In the quest for liberty.



**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**HYMN** "God of Grace and God of Glory"  
#436 NCH verse 5

5 Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RADIO BROADCAST**

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

**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, August 18, 2024  
<https://youtube.com/live/MvuvvGbiGdA>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday, August 18th –**

- **9 AM** Deacon Host – Barb Shoemaker  
Greeter(s) – Jim & M.E. Sjolín  
Usher(s) – Don Quicker, Jerry Quicker  
PowerPoint – Paul Vine

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by  
Howie & Kathy Mathis  
in celebration  
of their 44<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.



**Coffee fellowship after worship -**  
Sign up on back bulletin board

Aug 18 - Carole Romens  
Aug 25 -  
Sept 1 -

We need people to sign up