

## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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### RINGING OF THE CARILLON

**PRELUDE** "Shall We Gather" with "Prelude in C"  
J.S. Bach arr. Anna Laura Page Karen Mohr

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Whom do you seek here in this place?  
**We seek God, the Creator, who brought us to life.**  
Who has told you of God?  
**Jesus Christ, God's Son, has shown us the love of  
God through his life.**  
Discipleship is difficult. Are you ready?  
**We want to be ready. Lord, strengthen and sustain  
us this day.**

#### OPENING PRAYER (All)

In the beauty of this place, we have come to pray, to  
worship, to receive healing and hope. We come  
from the struggles and triumphs of the week,  
needing to feel the soothing presence of God. Lord,  
be with us this day. Calm and soothe our souls.  
Cause us to rejoice that you have provided a special  
place where we may gather to talk of your presence  
and love; to sing your praises; and to be empowered  
to go forth to serve you. AMEN.

#### HYMN "All Are Welcome"

Words & Music: Marty Haugen

**1 Let us build a house where love can dwell  
And all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell  
How hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and vision,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
Refrain:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.**

**2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
And words are strong and true,  
Where all God's children dare to seek  
To dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
And as symbol of God's grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: [Refrain]**

**3 Let us build a house where love is found  
In water, wine and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground  
Where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
Is revealed in time and space;  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us: [Refrain]**

**4 Let us build a house where hands will reach  
Beyond the wood and stone  
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
And live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
Bear the image of God's face;  
Let us bring an end to fear and danger: [Refrain]**

**5 Let us build a house where all are named,  
Their songs and visions heard  
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
As words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
Prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: [Refrain]**

#### PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Holy God, we confess that we put on airs more often  
than we put on the armor of God. We are guilty of  
girding ourselves with lies instead of the truth. We  
try to protect ourselves with arrogance, superstition,  
and self-reliance instead of righteousness, faith, and  
your gift of salvation. Our footsteps do not follow  
your path of peace. And we are quick to use your  
Word to attack one another, instead of striking out  
against the sins we personally commit. Forgive us  
and transform us. Gift us with the wisdom and  
strength to change our ways, so that we may live as  
your faithful ambassadors of the Good News. AMEN.

## 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**     **1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven <sup>23</sup> and said:

"Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. <sup>24</sup> You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it—as it is today.

<sup>25</sup> "Now Lord, the God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, 'You shall never fail to have a successor to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your descendants are careful in all they do to walk before me faithfully as you have done.' <sup>26</sup> And now, God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David my father come true.

<sup>27</sup> "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! <sup>28</sup> Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day. <sup>29</sup> May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. <sup>30</sup> Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

<sup>41</sup> "As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land

because of your name— <sup>42</sup> for they will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when they come and pray toward this temple, <sup>43</sup> then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.

**OLD TESTAMENT**

**Psalm 84 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!

<sup>2</sup> My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young— a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God. <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. <sup>6</sup> As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. <sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

<sup>8</sup> Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty; listen to me, God of Jacob. <sup>9</sup> Look on our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.

<sup>10</sup> Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. <sup>11</sup> For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

<sup>12</sup> Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

**NEW TESTAMENT**

**John 6:56-69 (NIV)**

<sup>56</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup> He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

<sup>61</sup> Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! <sup>63</sup> The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> Yet there are some of you

who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.” <sup>66</sup> From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. <sup>67</sup> “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

**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.**

**NEW TESTAMENT** **Ephesians 6:10-20 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

**SERMON** “Stand Firm” Pastor Julie

**HYMN** “*How Firm a Foundation*”

**#407 NCH** (vs. 1-2, 4-5) John Rippon

**1 How firm a foundation for you has been laid,  
By God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!  
What more can God say than to you has been said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God, I will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand."**

**4 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;  
the flame shall not hurt you, for I have designed  
Your soul to make pure just as gold is refined."**

**5 "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"**

**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 “*Intermezzo*” G. Bizet

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)**

**Loving God, in your care even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself; in your care, even the least of us finds life and spirit and blessing upon blessing. In gratitude for all we have received, accept our gifts and offerings, that we may abide in your love. Amen.**

**HYMN** "Standing on the Promises" verses 1-4

R. Kelso Carter

**1 Standing on the promises of Christ, my King!  
Thru' eternal ages let His praises ring;  
"Glory in the highest!" I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.**

**Refrain:**

**Standing, standing,  
standing on the promises of God, my Savior;  
Standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]**

**3 Standing on the promises, I now can see  
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;  
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,  
Standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]**

**4 Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord,  
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's Sword,  
Standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**HYMN** "Standing on the Promises" verse 5

**5 Standing on the promises, I cannot fall,  
List'ning every moment to the Spirit's call,  
Resting in my Savior as my All in All,  
Standing on the promises of God.**

**Refrain:**

**Standing, standing,  
standing on the promises of God, my Savior;  
Standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**Repeat Refrain:**

**Standing, standing,  
standing on the promises of God, my Savior;  
Standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**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 their 66<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.**

**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 25, 2024

<https://youtube.com/live/rZDUykbKBDs>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday, August 25th –**

**- 9 AM** Deacon Host – JoAnn Wren  
Greeter(s) – Phil & Donita Follen  
Usher(s) – Ben Mathis, Paul Schmidt  
PowerPoint – Paul Vine

**Coffee fellowship after worship -**

**Sign up on back bulletin board**

**Aug 25 – Mathis'**

**Sept 1 –**

**Sept 8 -**

**We need people to sign up**

