

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 4, 2024

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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RINGING OF THE CARILLON

PRELUDE "Berceuse" Felix Mendelssohn
Karen Mohr

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

With patience and love, we come as one family.

We are one body of Christ, united in God.

Come! Speak of truth, truth told in love.

We gather to listen, and to share our stories.

We are God's children, parts of Christ's purpose.

**We rejoice in our gifts, and we thank God
for this grace.**

Come! Now is the time to worship.

OPENING PRAYER (All)

God of unity and peace, bind us together as we
come now to worship. Strengthen the ties that
make us your family. Grant us the grace to recognize
our gifts and our place in this body. Guide us to
hear your calling as you speak to our lives.
Encourage us to bravely burst forth as pastors and
teachers, prophets and healers, evangelists and
leaders. Dwell in our very hearts, that we may serve
in humility— braided with strength and gentleness,
intertwined with passion. Build us up in love, that
we may grow in our knowledge and our love of you.
Speak your truth to our lives, that we may lead lives
worthy of your calling. Amen.

HYMN "All Who Hunger Gather Gladly"

Sylvia Dunstan (1955-93) Tune: HOLY MANNA

**1 All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.**

Come from wilderness and wand'ring.

Here in truth, we will be fed.

**You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.**

**Taste and see the grace eternal,
taste and see that God is good.**

**2 All who hunger, never strangers,
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered,
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

**3 All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

God of unity and love, place within each of us a
spirit of hope and community. Have mercy upon us
when we speak without love or act without
humility. Cleanse us with the living water of your
grace. Create in us willing hearts to live in patience
and gentleness. Raise us up to be your children,
growing toward maturity in faith and love.
Strengthen this church, that we may be a model of
ministry and unity for all the world to see. In Christ's
name, we pray. 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 **Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15**

² There, too, the whole community of Israel complained about Moses and Aaron. ³ "If only the Lord had killed us back in Egypt," they moaned. "There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death."

⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Look, I'm going to rain down food from heaven for you. Each day the people can go out and pick up as much food as they need for that day. I will test them in this to see whether or not they will follow my instructions."

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Announce this to the entire community of Israel: 'Present yourselves before the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole community of Israel, they looked out toward the wilderness. There they could see the awesome glory of the Lord in the cloud.

¹¹ Then the Lord said to Moses, ¹² "I have heard the Israelites' complaints. Now tell them, 'In the evening you will have meat to eat, and in the morning you will have all the bread you want. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.'"

¹³ That evening vast numbers of quail flew in and covered the camp. And the next morning the area around the camp was wet with dew. ¹⁴ When the dew evaporated, a flaky substance as fine as frost blanketed the ground. ¹⁵ The Israelites were puzzled when they saw it. "What is it?" they asked each other. They had no idea what it was. And Moses told them, "It is the food the Lord has given you to eat."

OLD TESTAMENT **Psalm 78:23-29**

Psalm 78:23-29

²³ But he commanded the skies to open;
he opened the doors of heaven.

²⁴ He rained down manna for them to eat;
he gave them bread from heaven.

²⁵ They ate the food of angels!
God gave them all they could hold.

²⁶ He released the east wind in the heavens
and guided the south wind by his mighty power.

²⁷ He rained down meat as thick as dust—
birds as plentiful as the sand on the seashore!

²⁸ He caused the birds to fall within their camp
and all around their tents.

²⁹ The people ate their fill.
He gave them what they craved.

NEW TESTAMENT **Ephesians 4:1-16**

¹ Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

⁶ one God and Father of all,
who is over all, in all, and living through all.

⁷ However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. ⁸ That is why the Scriptures say,

"When he ascended to the heights,
he led a crowd of captives
and gave gifts to his people."

⁹ Notice that it says "he ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. ¹⁰ And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.

¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

HYMN *"Break Now the Bread of Life"*

**Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
As once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
My spirit longs for you, O living Word.**

**You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me;
Your holy Word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with you above;
Teach me to love your truth, for you are love.**

NEW TESTAMENT John 6:24-35

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went across to Capernaum to look for him. ²⁵ They found him on the other side of the lake and asked, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. ²⁷ But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval."

²⁸ They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?"

²⁹ Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

³⁰ They answered, "Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do? ³¹ After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

³² Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. ³³ The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴ "Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day."

³⁵ Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

SERMON "Our Daily Bread" Pastor Julie

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

HYMN "Eat This Bread and Never Hunger"

Refrain:

**Eat this bread and never hunger,
Drink this cup and never thirst;
Christ invites us to the table
Where the last become the first.**

**1 Asking for a cup of water,
Jesus touched forbidden ground;
And the woman with a question,
Told the world what she had found. [Refrain]**

**2 Walking down a desert highway,
Jesus healed a man born blind;
Soon the man became a witness
To the truth we seek and find. [Refrain]**

**3 Weeping for his friend at graveside,
Jesus felt the pain of death;
Yet he knew God's power to waken:
Living water, living breath. [Refrain]**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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 the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

...Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim together the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.*

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory "Melody" 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)

God of miraculous grace, transform our gifts into the work of ministry. Transform our lives into your presence in the world. Through these gifts, may we grow in the knowledge of Christ and be strengthened in the unity of faith. Transform these gifts into the bread of life so that in our giving others may be fed. Make these gifts the waters that spring up into eternal life, so that in our giving, others may be nurtured and strengthened as children of God. In your loving and nurturing name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN "I Come With Joy"

#349 NCH vs. 1 -4 Brian Wren

1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

4 And thus we meet, and better know
the Presence, ever near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy
that Christ is risen here,
that Christ is risen here.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "I Come With Joy"

#349 NCH vs. 5 Brian Wren

5 Together met, together bound
in friendship we will stay,
And go with joy to love the world
and live the way we pray,
and live the way we pray.

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
Jim & Rosie Repinski
in "Praise of Jesus Christ"

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 4, 2024
https://youtube.com/live/oRm_1oAYDjk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, August 4th –

- **9 AM** Deacon Host – Sally Sadowska
Greeter(s) – Stephanie Heck, Brynn Heck
Usher(s) – Craig Heck, Max Heck
PowerPoint – Reese Ziegler

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

July 28 - Sharon Buddenhagen
Aug 4 – Donita & Phil Follen
Aug 11 – FAIR SERVICE -separate sheet for signup
Aug 18 -
Aug 25 -

We need people to sign up