

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 2024

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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RINGING OF THE CARILLON

PRELUDE "A Swedish Melody"

Arr. Earl Roland Larson Karen Mohr

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!
Praise be to God, the Giver of many gifts!
Our help is in God's name, the One who calls us here.
We come with songs of praise, with prayers too
deep for words.

Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!
Blessed be the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER (All)

Christ Jesus, we come into your presence from many
different places. We come with songs of joy and
shouts of gratitude. We come carrying heavy
burdens and sighs of suffering. As you welcome us
into your house, lift our burdens and receive our
praise. Salt us with your grace and flavor us with
your mercy. Bind us together, that we may be at
peace with one another and be strengthened to go
forth in service to the world. In your holy name, we
pray. Amen.

HYMN "You Are Salt for the Earth, O People"

#181 NCH Marty Haugen

**1 You are salt for the earth, O people:
salt for the reign of God!**

**Share the flavor of life, O people:
life in the City of God!**

Refrain:

Bring forth the reign of mercy,
bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice,
bring forth the City of God!

**2 You are a light on the hill, O people:
light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
shine for the City of God! [Refrain]**

**3 You are a seed of the Word, O people:
bring forth the reign of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
grow in the City of God! [Refrain]**

**4 We are a blessed and a pilgrim people:
bound for the reign of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
love is the City of God! [Refrain]**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (All)

God of unity, we do not always live as people bound
together in your love. Forgive us, Holy One: when
we do not pray for those who suffer, or care for
those who are sick; when we forget to offer words
of gratitude for the many gifts in our lives; when we
judge others and neglect your teaching that we are
in partnership with one another; when we lose the
saltiness of your teachings, the excitement and
energy you offer us on this journey of discipleship.
Flavor us with your love. Knead into our very being
your mercy and your grace. Sprinkle us with the
spices of compassion and commitment. Even as we
are forgiven, leaven us with forgiveness for others.
In trust of your eternal grace and merciful
forgiveness, 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: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

#292 NCH vs. 1

**1 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love
And do what you would do.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 19:7-14 (NLT)

⁷ The instructions of the Lord are perfect,
reviving the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

⁸ The commandments of the Lord are right,
bringing joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are clear,
giving insight for living.

⁹ Reverence for the Lord is pure,
lasting forever.

The laws of the Lord are true;
each one is fair.

¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold,
even the finest gold.

They are sweeter than honey,
even honey dripping from the comb.

¹¹ They are a warning to your servant,
a great reward for those who obey them.

¹² How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart?
Cleanse me from these hidden faults.

¹³ Keep your servant from deliberate sins!
Don't let them control me.

Then I will be free of guilt
and innocent of great sin.

¹⁴ May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

NEW TESTAMENT James 5:13-20 (NLT)

¹³ Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises.

¹⁴ Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

¹⁶ Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. ¹⁷ Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! ¹⁸ Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought

back, ²⁰ you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

NEW TESTAMENT Mark 9:38-50 (NLT)

³⁸ John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn't in our group."

³⁹ "Don't stop him!" Jesus said. "No one who performs a miracle in my name will soon be able to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ Anyone who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded.

⁴² "But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone hung around your neck. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one hand than to go into the unquenchable fires of hell with two hands. ⁴⁵ If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one foot than to be thrown into hell with two feet. ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out. It's better to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ 'where the maggots never die and the fire never goes out.'

⁴⁹ "For everyone will be tested with fire. ⁵⁰ Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other."

SERMON "Open the Gates" Pastor Julie

HYMN "Help Us Accept Each Other" Fred Kaan
#388 NCH

**1 Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us and bring us to believe.
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.**

**2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.**

3 Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

4 God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness, and
bread,
bring us new eye for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT *Patrick Pellett,
Clark County Substance Abuse Counselor*

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory "Go and Teach" Cesáreo Gabárain

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

Creating God, thank you for hearing our prayer,
receiving these gifts, and making them holy for
your kin-dom. Take and use us, that our hands
may reach out in service, our feet may walk the
difficult path of reconciliation, and that our words
may be words of peace. Amen.

HYMN "You Are the Seed" Cesáreo Gabárain
#528 NCH (verses 1-2)

1 You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
You're a star that will shine through the day;
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
A beacon to glow in the night.

You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
You're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
You are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
My witnesses where'er you go.

Refrain

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love
to all,
Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I
arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the
world."

2 You are the flame that will brighten the way,
Sending sparkles of hope, faith and love;
You are the shepherds to lead the whole world
Through valleys and pastures of peace.

You are the friends that I chose for myself,
The word that I want to proclaim.
You are the city that's built on a rock
Where justice and truth always reign. [Refrain]

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "You Are the Seed" #528 NCH (verse 3)

3 You are the life that will nurture the plant;
You're the waves in a turbulent sea;
Yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,
A new loaf of bread it will yield.

There is no place for a city to hide,
Nor a mountain can cover its might;
May your good deeds show a world in despair
A path that will lead all to God.

Refrain

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love
to all,
Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."

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 anonymously
with the message
"May his word be heard by all".

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, September 29, 2024
https://youtube.com/live/xS1DdPNt_Tw

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 29th –

- **10 AM** Deacon Host – Karlene Wallace
Greeter(s) – Barb Miller, Janice Miller
Usher(s) – Bonnie & Ray Weyer
PowerPoint – Janice Miller

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Sept 29 – JoAnn & Wayne Voss
Oct 6 - Marla & Joel Raine
Oct 13 – Carole Romens
Oct 20 -

We need people to sign up

MENTAL HEALTH JUSTICE FOR ALL

Mental health is
a Universal
Human
Right

"God will not falter or lose heart until justice
prevails throughout the earth." ISAIAH 49:1

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2024
ucukgim



In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme
is "Mental Health Justice For All!" This year's
focus is on Mental Health Justice. In 2015, the
General Synod of the United Church of Christ
passed a resolution to become WISE
(Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged)
for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the
human rights and well-being of people with
mental health challenges are respected, no
matter who you are or where you are in life's
mental health journey.

Please join us in promoting this year's NIN
"Mental Health is a Universal Human Right"
campaign at your church.

We thank you for your support and generosity.



The month has
passed so quickly and
it is time again for
assembling articles to
be included in the
October Newsletter,

PLEASE have your articles into the office
for the **October Newsletter** by Monday,
September 30th.