

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 13, 2024

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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RINGING OF THE CARILLON

PRELUDE "Air I" George F. Handel
Edited – Diane Bisch Karen Mohr

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 4:12-16 (NIV)

¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The kingdom of God is at hand.

We want to enter this kingdom.

The mercy of God is made known.

We want to receive this mercy.

The grace of God is abundant for all.

We praise you, O God, for your compassion and your love. Accept our grateful praise as we come to worship you today.

OPENING PRAYER (All)

Almighty God, we long to rest in your gentle arms. We need your compassion as we face the challenges and disappointments of life. When our hearts are

hard, and our concern is only for ourselves, turn us back to you. Remind us of your saving love and keep us close to you, Lord. Love us as only you can love, in Jesus' name. Amen

HYMN "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

#506 NCH Joseph Scriven

**1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.**

**2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to our God in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to our God in prayer!**

**3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
burdened with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
take it to our God in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to our God in prayer!
Jesus' arms will take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (All)

Lord, we look for you in the wrong places. We put our trust in material things. We worry about things we cannot change. We wonder if you are even there at all. For all the times we have doubted you, Lord, forgive us. For all the ways we have neglected your word and ignored your people, forgive us. Do not be far from us, Lord. There is no one else we can turn to for help. Renew our fickle hearts and help us put our trust in you.

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: *"Make Me a Servant"*

**Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak;
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant,
Make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Job 23:1-9, 16-17 (NLT)

¹ Then Job spoke again:

² "My complaint today is still a bitter one,
and I try hard not to groan aloud.

³ If only I knew where to find God,
I would go to his court.

⁴ I would lay out my case
and present my arguments.

⁵ Then I would listen to his reply
and understand what he says to me.

⁶ Would he use his great power to argue with me?
No, he would give me a fair hearing.

⁷ Honest people can reason with him,
so I would be forever acquitted by my judge.

⁸ I go east, but he is not there.
I go west, but I cannot find him.

⁹ I do not see him in the north, for he is hidden.
I look to the south, but he is concealed.

¹⁶ God has made me sick at heart;
the Almighty has terrified me.

¹⁷ Darkness is all around me;
thick, impenetrable darkness is everywhere.

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 22:1-15 (NLT)

¹ My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
Why are you so far away when I groan for help?

² Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not
answer. Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief.

³ Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴ Our ancestors trusted in you,
and you rescued them.

⁵ They cried out to you and were saved.
They trusted in you and were never disgraced.

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man.
I am scorned and despised by all!

⁷ Everyone who sees me mocks me.
They sneer and shake their heads, saying,

⁸ "Is this the one who relies on the Lord?
Then let the Lord save him!
If the Lord loves him so much,
let the Lord rescue him!"

⁹ Yet you brought me safely from my mother's womb
and led me to trust you at my mother's breast.

¹⁰ I was thrust into your arms at my birth.
You have been my God from the moment I was born.

¹¹ Do not stay so far from me,
for trouble is near,
and no one else can help me.

¹² My enemies surround me like a herd of bulls;
fierce bulls of Bashan have hemmed me in!

¹³ Like lions they open their jaws against me,
roaring and tearing into their prey.

¹⁴ My life is poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.

My heart is like wax,
melting within me.

¹⁵ My strength has dried up like sunbaked clay.
My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.
You have laid me in the dust and left me for dead.

NEW TESTAMENT Mark 10:17-31 (NLT)

¹⁷ As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a
man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked,
"Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal
life?"

¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked. "Only
God is truly good. ¹⁹ But to answer your question, you
know the commandments: 'You must not murder.
You must not commit adultery. You must not steal.
You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat
anyone. Honor your father and mother.'"

²⁰ "Teacher," the man replied, "I've obeyed all these
commandments since I was young."

²¹ Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him.
"There is still one thing you haven't done," he told
him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the

money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²² At this the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!” ²⁴

This amazed them. But Jesus said again, “Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God.

²⁵ In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

²⁶ The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked.

²⁷ Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.”

²⁸ Then Peter began to speak up. “We’ve given up everything to follow you,” he said.

²⁹ “Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, ³⁰ will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. ³¹ But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.”

SERMON “Eye of the Needle” Pastor Julie

HYMN “O Jesus, I Have Promised” John E. Bode
#493 NCH

**1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend;
I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**

**2 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will!
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control!
O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul!**

**3 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be, too;**

**And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend!**

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 “Thou Shalt Bring Them In” Handel

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

With open hands and thankful hearts, we offer to you all that is already yours, O Lord. Everything we possess is a gift from you. You so freely give us what we need, and you promise even greater treasures that await us in heaven. Take what we offer and use it for the goodness of your kingdom. Help us share generously with others all that you so graciously give to us. Amen.

HYMN “The Summons (Will You Come and Follow Me)” verses 1-3 John L. Bell and Graham A. Maule

**1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known?
Will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?**

**2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?**

3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?



Pastor Appreciation Day -
Sunday, October 13th

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "The Summons (Will You Come and Follow Me)" verse 4 John L. Bell and Graham A. Maule

4 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

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
"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, October 13, 2024

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, October 13th –

- 10 AM Deacon Host – JoAnn Wren
Greeter(s) – Pat Acheson, Herman Seebandt
Usher(s) – Emile Miller, Janet Meredith
PowerPoint – Reese Ziegler

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Oct 13 – Carole Romens
Oct 20 – Nancy & Kirk Rodman
Oct 27 - Kathy & Howie Mathis
Nov 3 -

We need people to sign up

