

## Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

October 27, 2024

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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### RINGING OF THE CARILLON

PRELUDE "A Mighty Fortress" Martin Luther  
Deon Spangler

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, take refuge in the Lord, for God is good.

**From the storms and struggles of life we come.**

Come, rejoice in the Lord, for God will provide peace  
for you.

**From fear and anxiety, we come to find peace.**

Come, open your hearts to the Lord and you will be  
given blessing.

**Thanks be to God for the many ways in which we are  
blessed.**

#### OPENING PRAYER (All)

Open our eyes, Lord. Help us to see Jesus as he  
reaches out to heal our blindness. Help us to let go of  
all those things that keep us in darkness. This day, as  
your word is proclaimed, let our hearts and souls  
respond with joy. Transform our lives to do your will.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"  
Rusty Edwards

**1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light.  
Praise the One who frees the prisoners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing every dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.**

**2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word.  
Praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing two-edged sword.**

**Praise the one who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand.  
From this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in every land.**

**3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.**

#### LITANY OF BLESSING

*Church World Service*

*Cleanup Buckets and Hygiene Kits*

*Written by: Rev. Ashley Nolte*

How long, O Lord, how long?

**Our hearts offer this silent prayer over and over  
again,**

**As our eyes behold images:**

**Of people's lives being washed by flood waters,  
Shattered by winds,**

**Broken to pieces in the storm surge of another  
disaster.**

We cannot stop our hearts from breaking,

**We cannot soothe the pain we see.**

We cannot answer all the prayers,

**Even if our hands tried,**

**That is not our work, but yours.**

We can rise as Your partners,

**When our breaking hearts are moved to action,**

**When we are liberated from the feeling, we must  
heal it all.**

We are summoned to do what we can, with what we  
can. And today we ask your blessing on these items,  
that feel so small in our hands.

**Bless these combs and toenail clippers, these bars of  
soap and toothbrushes, may they help your beloved  
find moments to relish their bodies. We pray these  
Ziploc bags and washcloths protect and restore what  
is found during this moment of exile. May these**

scouring pads, sponges, and all-purpose cleaners usher in the resurrection of memories and perseverance. May these garbage bags welcome and give a home to the grief that will be tucked inside them. Hear the prayers lifted behind these dust masks that sing a song of how you make a way out of no way. May these gloves protect the hands that wear them, preserving their gentleness from the hard edges of disaster. We pray that these kits soothe the spirits of those we will never know but are held close in our hearts. Help us to remember, you know the names and the need, as we trust these kits to you. In your name we pray, Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

As forgiven and reconciled children of God, let us share with one another signs of peace and love.

One: The Peace of God be with you.

**Many: And also 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** Psalm 34:1-8 (NLT)

- <sup>1</sup> I will praise the Lord at all times.  
I will constantly speak his praises.
- <sup>2</sup> I will boast only in the Lord;  
let all who are helpless take heart.
- <sup>3</sup> Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness;  
let us exalt his name together.
- <sup>4</sup> I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me.  
He freed me from all my fears.
- <sup>5</sup> Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces.

- <sup>6</sup> In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened;  
he saved me from all my troubles.
- <sup>7</sup> For the angel of the Lord is a guard;  
he surrounds and defends all who fear him.
- <sup>8</sup> Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

### **NEW TESTAMENT** Mark 10:46-52

<sup>46</sup> Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road. <sup>47</sup> When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

<sup>48</sup> "Be quiet!" many of the people yelled at him.

But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

<sup>49</sup> When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here."

So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, he's calling you!" <sup>50</sup> Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

<sup>51</sup> "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked.

"My Rabbi," the blind man said, "I want to see!"

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Go, for your faith has healed you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.

**SERMON** "Removing Blinders" Pastor Julie

**HYMN** "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

Clara Scott

**1 Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth you have for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unlock and set me free.  
Silently now, on bended knee,  
ready I wait your will to see;  
open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!**

**2 Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth you send so clear,  
and while the message sounds in my ear,  
everything false will disappear.**

Silently now, on bended knee,  
ready I wait your will to see;  
open my ears, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart, and let me prepare  
love with your children thus to share.  
Silently now, on bended knee,  
ready I wait your will to see;  
open my heart, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

## 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 "Come, Come, Ye Saints"

English Tune

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

Loving God, bless us with increased generosity,  
trust, and faithfulness. Receive these gifts as an  
offering of praise. May needs be met, lives be  
changed, and hearts be warmed through our giving.  
Amen

HYMN "There is a Name I Love to Hear"

#52 NCH Frederick Whitfield

1 There is a name I love to hear,  
I love to sing its worth;  
it sounds like music to my ear,  
the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain:

O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus,  
whose love has first found me.

2 It tells my Savior's love for all,  
Christ died to set us free;  
Whatever problems may befall,  
We'll live in dignity. [Refrain]

3 It bids me serve amid the wrath  
God's people face each day,  
And sheds along life's troubled path  
bright sunshine on my way. [Refrain]

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "There is a Name I Love to Hear"

#52 NCH Frederick Whitfield

Refrain:

O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus,  
Because he first loved me!

## COMMISSIONING (All)

Be the church:

**Protect the environment**

Care for the poor

**Forgive often**

Reject racism

**Fight for the powerless**

Share earthly and spiritual resources

**Embrace diversity**

Love God

**Enjoy this life!**

## 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, October 27, 2024  
<https://youtube.com/live/f321qQZRPkI>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday, October 27th –**

- **10 AM** Deacon Host – Barb Shoemaker  
Greeter(s) – Jim & Rosie Repinski  
Usher(s) – Ken Shoemaker, Roger Carl  
PowerPoint – Emile Miller

**Tuesday, October 29th –**

- **1 PM Bible Study**

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

Oct 27 - Kathy & Howie Mathis  
Nov 3 – M.E. Sjolín  
Nov 10 – Stewardship Committee  
Nov 17 – Susie Karl

We need people to sign up

*Holiday*  
**CRAFT FAIR**

**NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**UPDATE -**

Thursday, October 31st is the last day to  
drop off any items you would like to  
donate to the "New to You Treasures",  
Please place your items on the west side  
of the downstairs north classroom.

"Bake Shop", All bakers, please contact  
Susie Karl (715-743-4464 or  
715-937-3506)

or Carole Romens (651-359-5196)  
if you are willing to donate baked goods  
for the Holiday Fair. Bars, pies, cookies,  
candies, breads, canned goods, etc. are  
needed. Please DO NOT cut your bars.

Thank you!



for the  
**November**  
newsletter by  
Tuesday,  
October 29<sup>th</sup>