

All Saints's Day
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 3, 2024

United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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RINGING OF THE CARILLON

PRELUDE *"In Heaven Above"* arr. Alice Jordan
Karen Mohr

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 146)

Praise the Lord!

Let all that I am praise the Lord.

Joyful are those whose hope is in the Lord their God.

**God made heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them.**

He keeps every promise forever.

He gives justice to the oppressed
and food to the hungry.

The Lord frees the prisoners.

The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down.

The Lord protects the foreigners among us.

God cares for the orphans and widows.

The Lord will reign forever.

Praise the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER (All)

O God, you are our God, and we come as your people on earth. Gather us in, that we may remember the ties that bind us together in your love. Write your law upon our hearts, that others may find us to be generous and loving friends. Strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may live in love— a love that transforms our lives even as we help to transform the lives of others. In the hope of your miraculous love, we pray. Amen.

HYMN *"Gather Us In"* (vs. 1-3) Marty Haugen

**1 Here in this place new light is streaming,
shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.**

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
gather us in; our spirits inflame.
Call to us now and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**2 We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
we are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**3 Here we receive new life in the waters;
here we receive the bread of new birth;
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

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: *"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"*

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Ruth 1:18 (NLT)

¹In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. ²The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there.

³Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. ⁴The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, ⁵both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

⁶Then Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland. ⁷With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah.

⁸But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the Lord reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. ⁹May the Lord bless you with the security of another marriage." Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept.

¹⁰"No," they said. "We want to go with you to your people."

¹¹But Naomi replied, "Why should you go on with me? Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands? ¹²No, my daughters, return to your parents' homes, for I am too old to marry again. And even if it were possible, and I were to get married tonight and bear sons, then what?

¹³Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord himself has raised his fist against me."

¹⁴And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi. ¹⁵"Look," Naomi said to her, "your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same."

¹⁶But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. ¹⁷Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!" ¹⁸When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.

NEW TESTAMENT Mark 12:28-34 (NLT)

²⁸One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

²⁹Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' ³¹The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

³²The teacher of religious law replied, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. ³³And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law."

³⁴Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

SERMON

"From Foreign and Forlorn to Famous and Blessed"
Pastor Julie

HYMN

"O God, We Give Thanks for the Saints Gone Before Us"
ASH GROVE Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

1 O God, we give thanks for the saints gone before us — remembering well how they walked Jesus' Way. They valued the truth and would rise to defend it. They knelt to be kind to the poor day by day. They welcomed in immigrants, honored new neighbors, put love before greed, and sought peace over strife. May we in our homes and our churches and nations recall Jesus' teachings and welcome this life.

2 O God, we give thanks for the saints now among us — for teachers and helpers and activists, too, for those in our families and those who work with us to make the world better, to make the world new. We thank you for those who seek justice for others, for those who seek Jesus and live by his grace. May we in our homes and our churches and nations give thanks for their witness of love in this place.

3 O God, we give thanks for the Way Jesus shows us; may we seek to follow his reign from above. The world often calls us to hatred and violence, but Christ's Way is welcome and mercy and love. Like prophets, apostles, and martyrs before us, like those who bear witness to you every day, may we in our homes and our churches and nations be saints who are eager to choose Jesus' Way.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

God is in this place.

And in our hearts.

Open yourself to the nudging God.

We feel the breath of the Spirit.

Remember God made flesh.

Jesus, who taught us a new way.

...Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ, we offer our grateful praise, and proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Breaking Bread And Pouring Wine

Prayer of Blessing

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

Sharing The Elements

All are welcome to partake in the Feast of our Lord.

The table is open to all.

Prayer Of Thanksgiving

Creative, connecting God, you have sent your Spirit and made us the body of Christ;

From child-like faith, to youthful energy, from middle-aged mindfulness, to elder's wisdom. We thank you for this time, this remembrance. Amen

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory "Break Thou The Bread of Life"

Wm. Sherwin

Arr. Alice Jordan

Doxology "For the Life That You Have Given"

**For the life that you have given,
For the love in Christ made known,
With these fruits of time and labor,
With these gifts that are your own:
Here we offer, Lord, our praises;
Heart and mind and strength we bring;
Give us grace to love and serve you,
Living what we pray and sing.**

Prayer of Dedication

God of justice and love, transform these offerings, that they may be gifts of justice and love for a world in need of hope and help. Let love flow through these offerings, that they may become gifts of love for the world. Amen.

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

All Saints' Sunday is a time to reflect on the lives of the immense cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. Today, we name and honor those brothers and sisters in Christ who were called to their heavenly home this year-

God is in this place

And in our hearts.

Open yourself to the nudging God.

We feel the breath of the Spirit.

Jesus grieves with us; Jesus weeps with us.

God embraces us with comfort; God wipes away our tears.

We remember those who have died in the past year. We celebrate their lives, even as we continue to grieve. We invite families to come forward as their loved one is named and light a candle in their memory. You are invited to share a brief memory of your loved one, if you wish.

Georgiann Howard

David Beck

Marguerite Schroeder

Amy Wren

Marian Vornholt

Dennis Quicker

Dale Opelt

Lighting Candles of Remembrance

Pastoral Prayer

HYMN "God, We Thank You for Our People"
#376 NCH (verses 1-2) Ruth Duck

**1 God, we thank you for our people,
Roots dug deep within the soil,
Hardy spirits, rich in living,
strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful Rock of generations,
You whom parents' parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember
May our song to you be raised.**

**2 Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure:
Lessons learned and secrets told,
Hopes and memories saved as treasure,
Passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glories, songs and stories,
Food by loving hands prepared.
God, we bless you for your presence
In our tears and laughter shared.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "God, We Thank You for Our People"
(verse 4)
**By your Spirit of creation
Keep us bold for risking still,
Eager in anticipation,
ever strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one another,
sharing life and death and birth,
Welcoming as sister, brother,
All your children on the earth.**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO BROADCAST

**11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN
98.5FM and 1370AM**

YouTube link for Sunday, November 3, 2024

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

**This week's radio broadcast is
in loving memory of Betty Opelt
sponsored by her family.**

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, November 3rd –

- **10 AM** Deacon Host – Byrl Buddenhagen
Greeter(s) – Paul Vine, Kelley Burch
Usher(s) – Hap Eddy, Roger Carl
PowerPoint – Barb Petkovsek

Monday, November 4th –

- **9 AM** Card Making

Tuesday, November 5th –

- **1 PM** Bible Study

Wednesday, November 6th –

- **5-6 PM** JAM Christmas Program Practice

Saturday, November 9th –

- **9 AM - 1 PM** Holiday Fair & Lunch

Sunday, November 10th –

- **1 PM** Stewardship "Thank You" Sunday
with light lunch following worship

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Nov 3 – M.E. Sjolin
Nov 10 – Stewardship Committee (light lunch)
Nov 17 – Susie Karl
Nov 24-

We need people to sign up