

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 2, 2025
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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RINGING OF THE CARILLON

PRELUDE *"Shall We Gather at the River"* with *Prelude in C*
arr. Anna Laura Page Karen Mohr

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come to worship God, the living God,
Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.
We have come to praise God, the almighty God,
**Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the
power of grace.**
We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,
**Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry
the Word of life and hope. All glory to God!**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, We come to worship today to hear
your good news, to hear of faith, hope and love
ringing out from your kingdom. We know that doubt,
fear and hatred can shake even the strongest. Shape
us into faithful hopeful people, fill us with your love
that passes all understanding. We pray this together
in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

HYMN *"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"*

#93 W&R 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.**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

God Who Knows Us, we pray that you form and
shape us anew. Remind us who we are and draw us
back to you. Transform us in love, correct us with
compassion, and lead us with clarity into the paths of
righteousness, truth, and peace. Forgive us for the
ways that we reject your presence, your guidance,
and your will. Redeem and restore us as your
beloved creation and active citizens of your kin-dom.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

¹ If I could speak all the languages of earth and of
angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy
gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I had the gift of
prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans
and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith
that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I
would be nothing. ³ If I gave everything I have to the
poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about
it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained
nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or
boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its
own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of

being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

⁸ Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! ⁹ Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! ¹⁰ But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. ¹² Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

¹³ Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 4:14-30

¹⁴ Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. ¹⁵ He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures.

¹⁷ The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, ¹⁹ and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."

²⁰ He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. ²¹ Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"

²² Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. "How can this be?" they asked. "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

²³ Then he said, "You will undoubtedly quote me this proverb: 'Physician, heal yourself'—meaning, 'Do miracles here in your hometown like those you did in Capernaum.' ²⁴ But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown.

²⁵ "Certainly there were many needy widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the heavens were closed for three and a half years, and a severe famine devastated the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them. He was sent instead to a foreigner—a widow of Zarephath in the land of Sidon. ²⁷ And many in Israel had leprosy in the time of the prophet Elisha, but the only one healed was Naaman, a Syrian."

²⁸ When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. ²⁹ Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, ³⁰ but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.

SERMON "Speak in Truth and Love" Pastor Julie

HYMN "The Gift of Love"

#397 W&R

Hal H. Hopson

**1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift of all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**2 Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.**

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**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

What do you bring to Christ's table?

We bring bread, made by many people's work from an unjust world where some have plenty and most go hungry.

At this table, all are fed and no one turned away.

Thanks be to God

What do you bring to Christ's table?

We bring wine, made by many people's work from an unjust world where some have leisure and most struggle to survive

At this table, all share the cup of pain and celebration - and no one is denied.

Thanks be to God

These gifts shall be for us the body and blood of Christ, our witness against hunger, our cry against injustice, and our hope for a world where God is fully known and every child is fed.

Thanks be to God

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 join our voices with saints and angels and all the faithful of every time and place:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

....Let us proclaim together the great 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 all. The cup of blessing is available as either wine (RED) or juice (WHITE), depending on your preference. Gluten-free wafers are available.

Prayer Of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we give you thanks for this meal. We pray that you will send your Spirit on us, that this bread and cup may be for us the strength of life and love. May the bread be food for the journey. May the cup be a blessing for the future. May this table be a place where our hopes are forged. May this community gathered here be a reminder that we are not alone. May we all have the strength to live as your disciples in the world. Amen.

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *"Theme of The Blessed Spirit"*

C.W. von Gluck

Doxology:

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth;
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame;
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

O God, bless these gifts that we have given as expressions of our love for you and our neighbors, that they may bring closer to fulfillment your reign of peace and love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

HYMN *"God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"*

#531 NCH (verses 1-3) Frances Ridley Havergal

**1 God, speak to me, that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
As you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children, lost and lone.**

**2 O, lead me, God, that I may lead
some wanderers along life's way;
O, feed me, so that I may feed
your hungry ones without delay.**

**3 O, fill me with your fullness, God,
your overflowing love to know;
In glowing word and kindling thought,
your love to tell, your praise to show.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN *"God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"*

#531 NCH (verse 4)

**4 O use me, God, use even me,
just as you will and when and where,
Until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Karen Mohr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO BROADCAST

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

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Feb 2 – Carole Romens, Kathy Mathis
Feb 9 – Bonnie Shaw
Feb 16 - Susie & Russ Karl

We need people to sign up

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by
Dan Patey & family
in loving memory of Elvira Patey.

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, February 2, 2025

https://youtube.com/live/YMPsWxkF_2g

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, February 2nd –

- **10 AM** Deacon Host – Byrl Buddenhagen
Greeter(s) – Kathy & Larry Marshall
Usher(s) – Larry Marshall & Paul Schmidt
PowerPoint – Emile Miller

- **11 AM** – Confirmation Class

Monday, February 3rd –

- **9 AM** – Card Making

Tuesday, February 4th –

- **1 PM** Bible Study

Wednesday, February 5th –

- **5 PM JAM** UCC



Sunday, March 2nd,

immediately following the
regular service,
UCC will host its annual
congregational meeting.

The intent is to provide members with information
from each committee on past year activities as well as
their plans and goals for the upcoming year.
In addition, we will review committee membership
and request approval.

We will once again be collecting
soup for the local food pantry.
We are challenged by the
Calvary Lutheran Church and
St. Mary's Catholic Church to
see who can bring in the most
cans. **Please bring in before
Super Bowl Sunday –
February 9th**



If you plan to apply for a church camp
scholarship from the
Marian Ray Fund, applications are due
March 1, 2025.