

## Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Sue Vornholt

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### RINGING OF THE CARILLON

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 37)

Come, Beloved, and release your frenzied fear.

**We come, trusting the enduring promises of the  
Holy**

**One.**

Let meekness rise as strength of soul.

**May our promised inheritance of love shine brightly  
all around.**

May it strengthen us in our waiting and our working.

**May all that is evil wither, and all that is good grow  
to fullness.**

May the grace of God rest on us all as we gather.

#### OPENING PRAYER (All)

Holy Love, bear in us a new beginning. Soften our hearts and still our minds into Your gracious embrace. Hold the worries and wanderings of our lives. Gift us with the renewing energy of Your Holy Spirit. Let it meet our fatigue and form in us a deepened commitment to your vision of the beloved community. Yes, mold us with Christ-love into agents of Your blessing, for the good of the world. May the cup of our lives run over with this of Your desire. In Your Holy name, we pray. Amen

#### HYMN "Enter, Rejoice and Come In"

#73 NCH Louise Ruspini

**1 Enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**Enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**Today will be a joyful day;**

**enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**2 Open your ears to the song.**

**Open your ears to the song.**

**Today will be a joyful day;  
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**3 Open your hearts ev'ryone.**

**Open your hearts ev'ryone.**

**Today will be a joyful day;**

**enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**4 Don't be afraid of some change.**

**Don't be afraid of some change.**

**Today will be a joyful day;**

**enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**5 Enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**Enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**Today will be a joyful day;**

**enter, rejoice, and come in.**

### PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

God of the grand reversal, we confess our easy attachment to revenge in its many forms. Instead of interrupting violence, it has been easy to practice it in word and deed. It has been easy to worship the lie of scarcity instead of trusting your promise of abundance. By this, the way of the world has worked into our hearts and minds. Forgive us and free us from ourselves. Equip us anew with an outpouring of Your love. By this of You, form us into channels of grace. Deepen our love, expand our generosity, and mold us and the world with Your abundant mercy. Let the heart and mind of Christ take up residence in us anew.

### CHILDREN'S TIME

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 37:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,

<sup>2</sup>for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

<sup>3</sup>Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

<sup>4</sup>Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

<sup>6</sup>He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

<sup>8</sup>Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

<sup>9</sup>For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

<sup>10</sup>Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.

<sup>11</sup>But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

#### **NEW TESTAMENT Luke 6:27-38**

<sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

**SERMON** “A Good Measure” Pastor Sue Vornholt

**HYMN** “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”

Peter Scholtes

**1 We are one in the Spirit,  
we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit,  
we are one in the Lord;  
And we pray that all unity  
will one day be restored.**

*Refrain:*

**And they'll know we are Christians  
by our love, by our love,  
yes, they'll know we are Christians  
by our love.**

**2 We will walk with each other,  
we will walk hand in hand;  
We will walk with each other,  
we will walk hand in hand;  
And together we'll spread the news  
that God is in our land. [Refrain]**

**3 We Will work with each other,  
we will work side by side;  
We will work with each other,  
we will work side by side;  
And we'll guard each man's dignity  
and save each man's pride. [Refrain]**

**4 All praise to the Father,  
from whom all things come;  
And all praise to Christ Jesus,  
His only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit  
who makes us one. [Refrain]**

#### **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

### 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 (Unison)

Merciful God, who calls us to love beyond measure,  
we offer these gifts as a sign of our commitment to  
your teachings. Help us love our enemies, do good  
to those who hate us, and bless those who curse us.  
May our offerings bring healing and hope, reflecting  
your boundless grace in our community. In Jesus'  
name, we pray. Amen.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### HYMN "Go My Children, With My Blessing"

#82 NCH Jaroslav J. Vajda

1 Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing –  
You are my own.

2 Go, my children, fed and nourished, Closer to  
me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you;  
Here his tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
Joyful and free.

## BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

Karen Mohr

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **RADIO BROADCAST**

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

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by  
Pat Acheson and Herman Seebandt  
"In honor of Fran Ormond, a friend, faithful  
church member and radio listener".

## 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 23, 2025

<https://youtube.com/live/fGcz4FJYPA0>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sunday, February 23rd –

- 10 AM Deacon Host – Karlene Wallace  
Greeter(s) – Chad & Lacey Erickson Family  
Usher(s) – Marla & Joel Raine  
PowerPoint – Crispin Hediger

### Tuesday, February 25, 2025

- 1 PM Bible Study

### Wednesday, February 26, 2025

- 5:00 PM Council Meeting

### Sunday, March 2nd –

Annual Congregational Meeting  
immediately following the regular service,

### Wednesday, March 5th –

- 5 PM JAM Meeting at UCC
- 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service at UCC

**Coffee fellowship after worship -**

Sign up on back bulletin board

Feb 23 – Joel & Marla Raine

Mar 2 – Mathis’ ANNUAL MEETING

Mar 9 –

Mar 16 –

Mar 23 –

We need people to sign up

