

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**February 9, 2025**  
United Church of Christ - Neillsville  
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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**RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

**PRELUDE** *“Devotion”* John Ness Beck Karen Mohr

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

There is a good word for you if you are weary.  
**It is the Word of Love, deeper than every despair.**  
There is a good word if you have ever felt unworthy.  
**It is the Word of Hope, “Do not be afraid!”**  
There is a good word that needs to be heard.  
**It is the Word of Life, that raises up abundant blessings.**

**OPENING PRAYER (All)**

Faithful God, we come into Your presence with thanksgiving, deeply grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness You have shown toward us, Your people. When we call out to You, You answer. When we are exhausted, You give us the strength to go on. When we find ourselves in trouble, You are there, standing beside us. Open our eyes to see and know You here among us; open our ears to recognize Your voice. And then send us out from here, to live and work in the world as Your faithful disciples. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**HYMN** *“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”*  
**#173 NCH**

**1 You have come down to the lakeshore  
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
But only asking for me to follow.**

**Refrain**

**O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;  
Kindly smiling, you’ve called out my name.  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you I will seek other seas.**

**2 You know full well my possessions.  
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,  
Just these my fishnets and will for working.**  
[Refrain]

**3 You need my hands, my exhaustion,  
Working love for the rest of the weary -  
A love that’s willing to go on loving.**  
[Refrain]

**4 You who have fished other waters;  
You, the longing of souls that are yearning:  
As loving Friend, you have come to call me.**  
[Refrain]

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

Too often, we have clung to thoughts that we are too sinful for you. Too often, we have fused our shameful pasts with a closed future. From these beliefs, we condemn ourselves to an outlook without hope. But you have something different in mind. You see us as so much more. You see our divine image, and our creator- bestowed gifts. Save us from our negative self-talk, that we may embrace your calling for our lives. Amen.

**WORDS OF GRACE**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup> It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. <sup>2</sup> Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> They were calling out to each other,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies!  
The whole earth is filled with his glory!”

<sup>4</sup> Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup> Then I said, “It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people

with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies."

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven."

<sup>8</sup> Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."

### **Psalm 138**

<sup>1</sup> I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart;  
I will sing your praises before the gods.

<sup>2</sup> I bow before your holy Temple as I worship.

I praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness;

for your promises are backed  
by all the honor of your name.

<sup>3</sup> As soon as I pray, you answer me;  
you encourage me by giving me strength.

<sup>4</sup> Every king in all the earth will thank you, Lord,  
for all of them will hear your words.

<sup>5</sup> Yes, they will sing about the Lord's ways,  
for the glory of the Lord is very great.

<sup>6</sup> Though the Lord is great, he cares for the humble,  
but he keeps his distance from the proud.

<sup>7</sup> Though I am surrounded by troubles,  
you will protect me from the anger of my enemies.

You reach out your hand,  
and the power of your right hand saves me.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord will work out his plans for my life—  
for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever.  
Don't abandon me, for you made me.

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

**#480 W&R** Clara H. 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!**

### **NEW TESTAMENT Luke 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. <sup>2</sup> He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

<sup>5</sup> "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." <sup>6</sup> And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! <sup>7</sup> A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man." <sup>9</sup> For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. <sup>10</sup> His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" <sup>11</sup> And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

### **SERMON "Torn Nets & Sinking Boats" Pastor Julie**

**HYMN "Here I Am, Lord" Daniel L. Schutte**

**#559 W&R**

**1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?**

**Refrain**

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my Word to them.  
Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be  
satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send? [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** "O How He Loves You & Me!"  
Kurt Kaiser

**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**

God of the bursting nets, we thank you for your  
abundant blessings rising up at every turn. Multiply  
these gifts and our faith that your good news of life-  
giving love may stretch wider still. Yes, form us  
deep in Your heart for this good and gracious work.  
Amen.

**HYMN** "The Summons" John L. Bell

**#350 W&R verses 1-3**

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?

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**HYMN** "The Summons"

**#350 W&R verse 4**

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.

**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  
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, February 9, 2025  
<https://youtube.com/live/dYRgLv1HoMI>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sunday, February 9th –

- **10 AM** Deacon Host – Barb Shoemaker  
Greeter(s) – Jenna Ziegler & family  
Usher(s) – Ken Shoemaker, Travis Vine  
PowerPoint – Bonnie Weyer

- **11 AM** – Confirmation Class

### Tuesday, February 11th –

- **1 PM** Bible Study  
- **4:30 PM** Deacons Meeting

### Thursday, February 13th –

- **1:30 PM** Circle of Friends Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship -  
Sign up on back bulletin board

Feb 9 – Bonnie Shaw  
Feb 16 - Susie & Russ Karl  
Feb 23 – Joel & Marla Raine  
We need people to sign up



### 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. **The last day to bring  
is Super Bowl Sunday,  
February 9<sup>th</sup>**



## **Chili Soup Giveaway**

**February 16, 2025**



**UCC-Neillsville 515 West 2nd Street**  
**Curbside Pick-up 10:45-11:00 AM**