

Transfiguration Sunday

March 2, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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RINGING OF THE CARILLON

PRELUDE "A Swedish Melody" Earl Roland Larson
Karen Mohr

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has called us to the mountaintop.

We have been called to pray and to praise.

We are called to worship and to holy wonder.

May the light of Love burn brightly in us.

May it transfigure and transform our hearts and
minds.

May it become a beacon of hope for others.

OPENING PRAYER (All)

God, you bring us together in this place; we come to
be fed, to be renewed, to seek understanding. You
challenge us in this place; we embrace the
challenge, trusting that through challenge we grow
in faith. Holy One, you are revealed in this place,
sometimes in shining glory, sometimes in tears and
struggle. As we worship in this place, refresh,
renew, and challenge us so that we will see your
awesomeness. We pray in Jesus' name, as we strive
to walk the path of discipleship. Amen

HYMN "Gather Us In" Marty Haugen
#649 W&R

**1 Here in this place, the 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.**

**4 Not just in buildings, small and confining,
Not in some heaven light years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining;
Now is God present, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

We want to celebrate. We don't want to listen. We
want to stay on the mountaintop with Jesus and set
up a festival where everyone can come and play and
have a good time. But you have called us to "Listen
to Him!" You have asked us to be ready for the
journey. We cannot stay where we are, comfortable
and snuggled down in the familiar. There is much to
be done. Forgive us, Holy One, when we are
stubborn and willful. Remind us that you are with
us, wherever we are. You call us from the
mountaintop to go to the valley where there is
struggle and strife; where healing is needed.
Prepare us for the journey. Help us to listen to you.
Heal us, Lord. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹ When Moses came down Mount Sinai carrying the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, he wasn't aware that his face had become radiant because he had spoken to the Lord. ³⁰ So when Aaron and the people of Israel saw the radiance of Moses' face, they were afraid to come near him.

³¹ But Moses called out to them and asked Aaron and all the leaders of the community to come over, and he talked with them. ³² Then all the people of Israel approached him, and Moses gave them all the instructions the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses finished speaking with them, he covered his face with a veil. ³⁴ But whenever he went into the Tent of Meeting to speak with the Lord, he would remove the veil until he came out again. Then he would give the people whatever instructions the Lord had given him, ³⁵ and the people of Israel would see the radiant glow of his face. So he would put the veil over his face until he returned to speak with the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 99

¹ The Lord is king! Let the nations tremble! He sits on his throne between the cherubim. Let the whole earth quake!
² The Lord sits in majesty in Jerusalem, exalted above all the nations.
³ Let them praise your great and awesome name. Your name is holy!
⁴ Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established fairness. You have acted with justice and righteousness throughout Israel.
⁵ Exalt the Lord our God! Bow low before his feet, for he is holy!
⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests; Samuel also called on his name. They cried to the Lord for help, and he answered them.
⁷ He spoke to Israel from the pillar of cloud, and they followed the laws and decrees he gave them.
⁸ O Lord our God, you answered them. You were a forgiving God to them, but you punished them when they went wrong.
⁹ Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain in Jerusalem, for the Lord our God is holy!

HYMN "Holy Ground" Geron Davis

#654 W&R

**We are standing on holy ground,
And I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now;
We are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 9:28-43a

The Transfiguration

²⁸ About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. ³¹ They spoke about his departure,[a] which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³² Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³ As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

³⁴ While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."
³⁶ When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy

³⁷ The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. ³⁸ A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹ A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not."

⁴¹ "You unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here."

⁴² Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

SERMON "A Glimpse of Glory" Pastor Julie

HYMN "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"
#182 NCH Carl P. Daw, Jr.

1 We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.

2 Light breaks through our clouds and shadows;
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word;
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.

Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the law and prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.

3 Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.

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

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us lift up our 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.**

... As we remember the life, death, and resurrection
of Jesus, we speak the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing The Elements

These are the gifts of God for the people of
God. This is a table where all are invited and all
are welcome.

Prayer Of Thanksgiving

**Lord Jesus, we have seen you shining in glory
on the mountaintop and joining us in bread
and cup here at this table. Strengthen us by
these glimpses of your glory, that your
kingdom might be known and your love be
shown shining brightly in our lives and in our
world, until the day of your full appearing.
Alleluia! Amen.**

RESPONSE "I Come with Joy"
#349 NCH vs. 3 Brian Wren

3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.

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)

Generous God, it is through your mercy that we have this ministry— the ministry of our talents and treasure, the ministry of our passion and purpose. Strengthen our hearts for your service, and accept the grateful offerings we lay before you. Amen.

HYMN “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

#319 W&R Graham Kendrick

1 Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father’s glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your Word,
Lord, and let there be light.

2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me, shine on me. *[Refrain]*

3 As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story,
Shine on me, shine on me. *[Refrain]*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN “I Come with Joy”

#349 NCH vs. 5 Brian Wren

5 Together met, together bound,
In friendship we will stay,
And go with joy to love the world
And live the way we pray,
And live the way we pray.

COMMISSIONING

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

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 a message
“May HIS word be heard by ALL”.

**TODAY, Sunday, March 2nd –
Annual Congregational Meeting
immediately following the regular service**

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, March 2, 2025

<https://youtube.com/live/-ZtF3SrneWg>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, March 2nd –

- **10 AM** Deacon Host – Janice Miller
- Greeter(s) – Kirk & Nancy Rodman
- Usher(s) – Barb & Bob Petkovsek
- PowerPoint – Emile Miller

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Mar 2 – Mathis' ANNUAL MEETING

Mar 9 –

Mar 16 –

Mar 23 -

We need people to sign up

Monday, March 3rd -

- **9 AM** Card Making

Tuesday, March 4th –

1 PM Bible Study

Wednesday, March 5th –

- **5 PM JAM Meeting at UCC**

- **6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service at UCC**

