

## Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger



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### HYMN "Be Now My Vision"

#451 NCH Mary E. Byrne Eleanor H. Hull

**1 Be now my vision, O God of my heart;  
Nothing surpasses the love you impart -  
You my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.**

**2 Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;  
Ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me,  
Now and forever your child I will be.**

**3 Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,  
You, my inheritance, now and always;  
You and you only are first in my heart,  
Great God, my treasure, may we never part.**

**4 Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### WORDS OF GRACE

### CHILDREN'S TIME

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 27

- <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation—  
so why should I be afraid?  
The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger,  
so why should I tremble?
- <sup>2</sup> When evil people come to devour me,  
when my enemies and foes attack me,  
they will stumble and fall.
- <sup>3</sup> Though a mighty army surrounds me,  
my heart will not be afraid.  
Even if I am attacked,  
I will remain confident.
- <sup>4</sup> The one thing I ask of the Lord—  
the thing I seek most—

### PRELUDE "Contemplation" Camille Saint-Saëns

Karen Mohr

### RINGING OF THE CARILLON

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CENTERING "Come and Fill Our Hearts"

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
You alone, O God, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
A - - - men. [Repeat]**

*"The Walk" by Ann Weems*

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
You alone, O God, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
A - - - men. [Repeat]**

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Wait for the Lord; be strong!

**The promises of God will never be broken.**

With God as our light, what is there to fear?

**The promises of God will never be broken.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name  
of the Lord!

**The promises of God will never be broken.**

### OPENING PRAYER

**Gracious God, prepare us to receive you. May our  
eyes behold you in those around us. May our ears  
receive your word. May our hearts be open to your  
teaching and leading. In this precious moment, may  
we know you in new ways. Amen.**

is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,  
delighting in the Lord's perfections  
and meditating in his Temple.

<sup>5</sup> For he will conceal me there when troubles come;  
he will hide me in his sanctuary.

He will place me out of reach on a high rock.

<sup>6</sup> Then I will hold my head high  
above my enemies who surround me.  
At his sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of  
joy,  
singing and praising the Lord with music.

<sup>7</sup> Hear me as I pray, O Lord.

Be merciful and answer me!

<sup>8</sup> My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with  
me."

And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming."

<sup>9</sup> Do not turn your back on me.

Do not reject your servant in anger.

You have always been my helper.

Don't leave me now; don't abandon me,  
O God of my salvation!

<sup>10</sup> Even if my father and mother abandon me,  
the Lord will hold me close.

<sup>11</sup> Teach me how to live, O Lord.

Lead me along the right path,  
for my enemies are waiting for me.

<sup>12</sup> Do not let me fall into their hands.

For they accuse me of things I've never done;  
with every breath they threaten me with violence.

<sup>13</sup> Yet I am confident I will see the Lord's goodness  
while I am here in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> Wait patiently for the Lord.

Be brave and courageous.

Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.

**RESPONSE:** "Wait for the Lord" #166 W&R

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.**

**Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!** [Repeat]

**NEW TESTAMENT** **Philippians 3:17-4:1**

<sup>17</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after  
mine, and learn from those who follow our example.

<sup>18</sup> For I have told you often before, and I say it again  
with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose  
conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross  
of Christ. <sup>19</sup> They are headed for destruction. Their  
god is their appetite, they brag about shameful  
things, and they think only about this life here on  
earth.

<sup>20</sup> But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord  
Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him  
to return as our Savior. <sup>21</sup> He will take our weak  
mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies  
like his own, using the same power with which he  
will bring everything under his control.

<sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stay true  
to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear  
friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive  
for my work.

**NEW TESTAMENT** **Luke 13:31-35**

<sup>31</sup> At that time some Pharisees said to him, "Get away  
from here if you want to live! Herod Antipas wants to  
kill you!"

<sup>32</sup> Jesus replied, "Go tell that fox that I will keep on  
casting out demons and healing people today and  
tomorrow; and the third day I will accomplish my  
purpose. <sup>33</sup> Yes, today, tomorrow, and the next day I  
must proceed on my way. For it wouldn't do for a  
prophet of God to be killed except in Jerusalem!

<sup>34</sup> "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the  
prophets and stones God's messengers! How  
often I have wanted to gather your children  
together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her  
wings, but you wouldn't let me. <sup>35</sup> And now, look,  
your house is abandoned. And you will never see  
me again until you say, 'Blessings on the one who  
comes in the name of the Lord!'"

**SERMON** "Seeing through Tears" Pastor Julie

**HYMN** "Since the Lord is My Salvation"

*Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7 D ("Come, Thou Fount of  
Every Blessing")*

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rights reserved.*

**1 Since the Lord is my salvation, Is there anyone to  
fear?**

**As a citizen of heaven why should I feel worry here?  
In a world that's lost and broken and where sin and  
death abound,  
We rejoice for God has spoken: we are safe, on  
solid ground.**

**2 God will hide me in the shelter when the days of  
trouble come.**

Though a war may rise against me, God's own tent will be my home.

I will trust what God has given, I will trust God's word to me:

I'm a citizen of heaven and it's what I'll always be.

3 Even when I hear the warning, "Find a safer, easier way,"

I'll be faithful in the morning and at noon and close of day.

As a citizen of heaven, I have nothing I should fear; For in Christ, I am forgiven, and I'm called to service here.

4 You, O Lord, are my salvation; make me strong to live for you.

May I care for your creation, love the stranger, speak what's true.

May I share what you have given; may I see each person's worth.

As a citizen of heaven, make me useful here on earth.

#### 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 throughout these forty days.  
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

###### Prayer of Dedication (All)

Dear God, use our offerings of our resources and of our lives. Bless them, multiply them for your purposes in the world. Amen.

##### HYMN "Christ Beside Me"

#425 W&R (vs. 1-3)

Words: St. Patrick (Adapted by James Quinn)

Tune: BUNESSAN Gaelic Melody

1 Christ beside me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me - King of my heart;  
Christ within me, Christ below me,  
Christ above me - never to part.

2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me - shield in the strife;  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christening my rising - light of my life.

3 Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues telling of me;  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

##### LENTEN BLESSING

##### JOYS AND CONCERNS

##### HYMN "Christ Beside Me"

#425 W&R vs. 4

4 Christ beside me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me - King of my heart;  
Christ within me, Christ below me,  
Christ above me - never to part.

##### BENEDICTION

##### POSTLUDE

Karen Mohr



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

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by  
**Susan Smigelski & family**  
in memory of Eileen Zank who enjoyed  
listening to our Sunday worship service  
on WCCN.

### 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 16, 2025

<https://youtube.com/live/gnhQG7Mgtjs>

Mar 16 – Nancy & Kirk Rodman

Mar 23 – Bonnie & Ray Weyer

Mar 30 –

Apr 6 - Doris Bakker

We need people to sign up



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Sunday, March 16th

- **10 AM** Deacon Host – Byrl Buddenhagen  
Greeter(s) – Sandy Bieneck & Michelle Bergemann  
Usher(s) – Russ Karl & Hap Eddy  
PowerPoint – Reese Ziegler

- **11 AM** – Confirmation

Monday, March 17th – Card Making

#### Tuesday, March 18th

- **1 PM** Bible Study
- **4 PM** Trustees Meet

#### Wednesday, March 19th

- **5 PM** JAM at Calvary
- **6 PM** Lenten Study at UCC

A logo for a meal giveaway featuring a plate with a red heart in the center, flanked by a fork and a knife. The text "Meal Giveaway" is written in a large, bold font, with "March 16, 2025" below it. The location "UCC - Neillsville" is written in a large, bold font, followed by the address "515 West Second Street" and the time "10:45-11:00 AM". The phrase "Prepared by Living Hope" is written at the bottom.

**Meal Giveaway**  
March 16, 2025  
**UCC - Neillsville**  
515 West Second Street  
10:45-11:00 AM  
Prepared by Living Hope

Coffee fellowship after worship -  
Sign up on back bulletin board