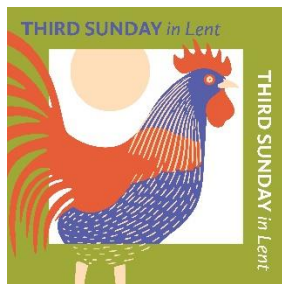


Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger



All music in this service copied and streamed under OneLicense.net A-723900 and CCLI License # 20913817

toward you from our sinful ways. Mold us as your people in new and powerful ways, that we may be true disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

HYMN "Come Away from Rush and Hurry"

(#655 W&R) Marva J. Dawn

1 Come away from rush and hurry
to the stillness of God's peace;
From our vain ambition's worry,
come to Christ to find release.
Come away from noise and clamor,
life's demands and frenzied pace;
Come to join the people gathered
here to seek and find God's face.

2 In the pastures of God's goodness
we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God's mercy
we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God's presence
all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God's anointing
into service we are led.

3 Come, then, children, with your burdens -
life's confusions, fears and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus;
take instead his kingdom's reign.
Bring your thirst, for he will quench them -
he alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment
when to self we gladly die.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Gracious God, sometimes we are disappointed by other people, too ready to dismiss or discard them. Help us to see in others what you see in them: their growth, the fruits that they offer. Forgive us when we too quickly judge others. Forgive us also, when we doubt that we can be worthy followers of you. May we be inspired to nurture your people and ourselves. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

PRELUDE

Holly Pisors

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]*

"Come Unto Me" 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

You who are thirsty:

Come to receive living water.

You who are hungry:

Taste the bread that satisfies.

You who long for connection:

**Receive the fellowship of this community,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.**

You who search for love:

**Experience the love of Jesus expressed in music,
prayer, community, word and action.**

May this time of worship fill and refresh you.

Let us worship God together!

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and eternal God, you call us into a new way of being, and give us so many second chances in life. May your love wash over us, as we turn

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 55:1-9

¹ "Is anyone thirsty?

Come and drink—
even if you have no money!

Come, take your choice of wine or milk—
it's all free!

² Why spend your money on food that does not give
you strength?

Why pay for food that does you no good?
Listen to me, and you will eat what is good.
You will enjoy the finest food.

³ "Come to me with your ears wide open.

Listen, and you will find life.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you.

I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to
David.

⁴ See how I used him to display my power among the
peoples.

I made him a leader among the nations.

⁵ You also will command nations you do not know,
and peoples unknown to you will come running to
obey,

because I, the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, have made you glorious."

⁶ Seek the Lord while you can find him.

Call on him now while he is near.

⁷ Let the wicked change their ways
and banish the very thought of doing wrong.

Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on
them.

Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.

⁸ "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says
the Lord.

"And my ways are far beyond anything you could
imagine.

⁹ For just as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so my ways are higher than your ways
and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 63:1-8

¹ O God, you are my God;

I earnestly search for you.

My soul thirsts for you;

my whole body longs for you
in this parched and weary land
where there is no water.

² I have seen you in your sanctuary
and gazed upon your power and glory.

³ Your unfailing love is better than life itself;
how I praise you!

⁴ I will praise you as long as I live,
lifting up my hands to you in prayer.

⁵ You satisfy me more than the richest feast.
I will praise you with songs of joy.

⁶ I lie awake thinking of you,
meditating on you through the night.

⁷ Because you are my helper,
I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ I cling to you;
your strong right hand holds me securely.

RESPONSE "On Eagle's Wings"

#775 NCH Michael Joncas, Carlton R. Young

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of God's hand.**

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 13:1-9

¹ About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had
murdered some people from Galilee as they were
offering sacrifices at the Temple. ² "Do you think
those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other
people from Galilee?" Jesus asked. "Is that why they
suffered? ³ Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless
you repent of your sins and turn to God. ⁴ And what
about the eighteen people who died when the tower
in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners
in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, and I tell you again that unless
you repent, you will perish, too."

Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

⁶ Then Jesus told this story: "A man planted a fig tree
in his garden and came again and again to see if
there was any fruit on it, but he was always
disappointed. ⁷ Finally, he said to his gardener, 'I've
waited three years, and there hasn't been a single
fig! Cut it down. It's just taking up space in the
garden.'

⁸ "The gardener answered, 'Sir, give it one more
chance. Leave it another year, and I'll give it special
attention and plenty of fertilizer. ⁹ If we get figs next
year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.'"

SERMON "Come to the Water" Pastor Julie

HYMN "Fill My Cup, Lord"

(#481 Hymns for Family of God) Richard Blanchard

1 Like the woman at the well I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy;
And then I heard my Savior speaking:
"Draw from My well that never shall run dry."

Refrain:

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord!
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul;
Bread of heaven, feed me 'til I want no more -
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

2 There are millions in this world who are craving
The pleasures earthly things afford;
But none can match the wondrous treasure
That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord. [Refrain]

3 So, my brother, if the things this world gave you
Leave hungers that won't pass away,
My blessed Lord will come and save you,
If you kneel to Him and humbly pray: [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 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)

Generous God, take these offerings of treasure,
and our lives, to use for your purposes in the
world. May these gifts be a blessing to your
world. Amen.

HYMN "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

#23 NCH Frederick William Faber

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There's no place where earthly sorrows
Are more felt than in God's heaven;
There's no place where earthly failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

2 For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of our minds;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's word;
And our lives would show thanksgiving
For the goodness of our God.

LENTEN BLESSING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

RESPONSE "On Eagle's Wings" #775 NCH

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of God's hand.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Holly Pisors



ANNOUNCEMENTS
RADIO BROADCAST
11 AM Sunday radio broadcast
on WCCN 98.5FM and 1370AM

This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored anonymously
in "Praise of Jesus Christ".

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 23, 2025
<https://youtube.com/live/43JfF-imvFU>

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Sunday, March 23rd

- **10 AM** Deacon Host – Byrl Buddenhagen
Greeter(s) – Carole Romens & Jenny Erickson
Usher(s) – Don Quicker, Jerry Quicker
PowerPoint – Crispin Hediger

- **11 AM** – Confirmation

Tuesday, March 25th

- **5 PM** Deacon's Meeting

Wednesday, March 26th

- **6 PM** Lenten Study at Calvary

Thursday, March 27th

- **5:30 PM** Council Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up on back bulletin board

Mar 23 – Bonnie & Ray Weyer
Mar 30 – Sharon & Byrl Buddenhagen
Apr 6 - Doris Bakker
Apr 13 -

We need people to sign up



This year we will be ordering a variety
of spring blooming plants
for Easter Sunday. These are all 6" pots

Easter Lily	\$17	Daffodil	\$15
Hyacinth	\$15	Cineraria	\$15
Tulip	\$15		

Please have your order into the office
by Friday, April 10th