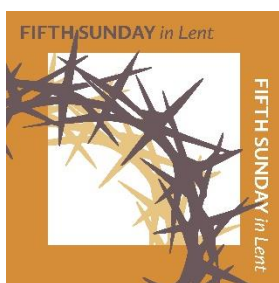


## Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger



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### OPENING PRAYER

**Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness and water in the desert. Help us to recognize your hand working miracles beyond our imagining. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, so that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love for all, and its presence in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

#224 NCH Isaac Watts

**1 When I survey the wondrous cross,  
on which the Christ of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**2 Forbid it, then, that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most  
I sacrifice them to Christ's blood.**

**3 From sacred head, from hands, and feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

### PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

We confess, Anointed One, that we excuse ourselves from reaching out to those who need your care. We take your words – that there will always be unmet needs – as a reason not to try to meet the needs we can. Forgive us, and help us to change. Renew our determination to live as faithful followers, faithful disciples, faithful Christians. Help us to work with you for the well-being of your creation, that the fortunes of all your peoples may be restored. Amen.

PRELUDE "Adagio in G Minor" Tomaso Albinoni  
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]**

*"Counting the Cost" 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

Here, in this place, we discover the great things God has done.

**In story and song, in silence and sacrament, we are reminded that God's relationship with us lasts forever.**

Here, with these people, we find our true home,  
**where we can run home laughing, after being lost for so long.**

Here, during this holy season,  
**we hear those promises made so long ago.**

Of the One who repairs all our mistakes,  
**of the One who reshapes our brokenness.**

## WORDS OF GRACE

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### Invitation to the Table

#### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your 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.**

#### Communion Prayer

#### Sharing The Elements

*All are welcome to partake in the Feast of our Lord. The table is open to all.*

*Gluten-free bread is available if you need.*

*Wine is red, and the juice is white.*

#### Prayer Of Thanksgiving

**Divine Light of our journey-**

**In a spirit of gratitude we give thanks for this time at your holy meal. This time at the Table filled us with strength, knowing that as we continue on this Lenten journey, we will find your peace surrounding us. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 126

<sup>1</sup> When the Lord brought back his exiles to Jerusalem, it was like a dream!

<sup>2</sup> We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy.

And the other nations said,

“What amazing things the Lord has done for them.”

<sup>3</sup> Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us! What joy!

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, Lord, as streams renew the desert.

<sup>5</sup> Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy.

<sup>6</sup> They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest.

### NEW TESTAMENT John 12:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

<sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, <sup>5</sup> “That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.” <sup>6</sup> Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. <sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

SERMON “Extravagant Love” Pastor Julie

HYMN “More Love to You, O Christ”

#456 NCH Elizabeth P. Prentiss

**1 More love to you, O Christ, more love to you!  
Hear now the prayer I make faith to renew.**

*Refrain:*

**In all I say and do, more love, O Christ, to you,  
More love to you, more love to you!**

**2 Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;  
Now you alone I seek, give what is best:**

*[Refrain]*

**3 Then shall my latest breath whisper your praise;  
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise:**

*[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

### HYMN "I Am Yours, O Lord"

#455 NCH (vs. 1-3) Fanny Crosby  
1 I am yours, O Lord, I have heard your voice,  
And it told your love to me;  
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,  
Drawn to you eternally.

#### *Refrain:*

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To the cross where you have died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To your precious, bleeding side.

2 O the pure delight of a single hour  
That before your throne I spend,  
When I kneel in prayer, and with you, my God,  
I commune as friend with friend! [Refrain]

3 Consecrate me now to your holy work  
By the power of grace divine;  
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope;  
Let your will be done, not mine. [Refrain]

## LENTEN BLESSING

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

### RESPONSE "I Am Yours, O Lord" #455 NCH (vs. 4)

4 There are depths of love that I cannot know  
Till I cross the narrow sea;  
There are heights of joy that I may not reach  
Till I rest eternally.

#### *Refrain:*

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To the cross where you have died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To your precious, bleeding side.

## 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 Dan Patey  
in loving memory of Elvira Patey.

## 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, April 6, 2025

<https://youtube.com/live/0I718IFk6Yo>



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sunday, April 6th

- **10 AM Worship** Deacon Host – Sally Sadowska  
Greeter(s) – Nancy Boon & Audrey Vradenburg  
Usher(s) – Ben Mathis, Paul Schmidt  
PowerPoint – Barb Petkovsek

- **11 AM** – Confirmation will meet  
**Baked Goods Auction** to follow worship service

### Monday, April 7th

- **9 AM** Card Making

### Tuesday, April 8th

- **1 PM** Bible Study
- **5:30 PM** Deacon's Meeting

### Wednesday, April 9th

- **6 PM** Lenten Study at Calvary

### Thursday, April 10th

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

### Sunday, April 13th

- **10 AM** Palm Sunday Worship

### **Coffee fellowship after worship -**

Sign up on back bulletin board

Apr 6 - Doris Bakker  
Apr 13 -  
Apr 20 – EASTER – no fellowship  
Apr 27-  
May 4 – Confirmation Sunday – Christian Ed.

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

<b>Easter Lily</b>	<b>\$17</b>	<b>Daffodil</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Hyacinth</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>Cineraria</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Tulip</b>	<b>\$15</b>		

**Please have your order into the office by Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**