

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2024

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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**PRELUDE** "Hymn to Joy" Ludwig van Beethoven  
Deon Spangler

### **RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **EASTER ACCLAMATION: "Hallelujah" #236 NCH**

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Let us praise God for sending Jesus Christ to offer his  
saving love to us all.

**All: We give God all our praises.**

One: Let our hearts be filled with joyful celebration for the  
fulfillment of God's promises.

**All: We open our hearts to receive the joy of Christ.**

One: Let us move forward with Jesus Christ as our guiding  
light.

**All: The light of Jesus Christ is shining in each of us.**

One: Come, let us worship our Risen Christ, whose love  
and light guide us still.

### **HYMN "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"**

**#4 NCH** Henry van Dyke

**1 Joyful, joyful, we adore you,  
God of glory, God of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the storms of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.**

**2 All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around you,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
teach us what our praise should be.**

**3 You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blessed,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother,  
all who love belong to you;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
by that love our joy renew.**

**4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,  
reconciling race and clan.  
Ever singing, move we forward,  
faithful in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us onward  
in the triumph song of life.**

### **OPENING PRAYER (All)**

**O Lord, Easter had such an impact on our lives. We  
walked the by-ways with Jesus, ate with him and wept  
at the Crucifixion. Easter morn dawned brightly in our  
lives at the news of the Resurrection and we sang  
songs of great joy. Watch over us, gentle God, as we  
pray and work to do your will. Keep our hearts open  
to your loving word and ways. AMEN.**

### **MOTHER'S DAY LITANY**

*(based on Isaiah 66: 7-9, 12-13; 42:14; 54:13; 54:1)*

Midwifing God, the Prophet Isaiah declared that You  
are the one who delivers us.

**We remember that You are Mother and Father to all  
of us, all of us are Your children.**

Mothering God, You bring forth new life in our midst.

**We honor the mothers around us, and all who care  
and love children.**

Grandmother God, You comfort us in our time of  
grieving and sorrow.

**We remember our mothers and grandmothers  
who have passed on, for all those we miss on  
this day.**

Teaching God, You have taught us to honor our mothers and fathers and have taught us the ways of love.

**We remember those who have been like mothers to us, giving wisdom and guidance in our lives.**

Creator God, we remember that we are all created in Your image.

**We honor and respect all women in our midst, mothers and aunts and sisters and friends.**

We honor and remember these great women, loving God, whom You have sent into our lives.

**Mothering God, guide us into ways of honoring and respecting women around our world, working towards justice and liberation, health and safety for all women and girls. In the name of Christ, who like a mother hen desires to gather us together, we pray. Amen.**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Give voice to God's love and peace; those around us need to hear the Good

**ALL: The Peace of God be with you.**

All are invited to greet one another with words such as "The peace of Christ be with you, and the response: "And also with you".

### **EASTER ACCLAMATION: "Hallelujah" #236 NCH**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

##### **FIRST LESSON**

##### **Psalms 1**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

<sup>2</sup>but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

<sup>4</sup>The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

<sup>6</sup>for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

### **EPISTLE LESSON**

#### **1 John 5:9-13**

<sup>9</sup>If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup>Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

### **GOSPEL LESSON "Jesus Prays"**

#### **John 17:6-19**

<sup>6</sup>"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

<sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

<sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

### **SERMON "Sanctified in Truth"**

Pastor Julie

### **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

## HYMN *"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"*

#351 NCH John Ylvisaker

1 I was there to hear your borne cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;

I'll be there in case you wander off  
And find where demons dwell.

2 When you heard the wonder of the Word,  
I was there to cheer you on;

You were raised to praise the living God,  
to whom you now belong.

Should you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,

I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk 'till rising sun.

3 In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in,  
and you shut your weary eyes,

I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.

4 I was there to hear your borne cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

## SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

Landon Bergemann

Brynn Heck

Max Heck

Ava Kruschke

Owen Sigurdson

Iris Vine

## INVITATION

### QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

**ALL: I believe in God.**

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**ALL: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**ALL: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

### PRAYER OF THE CANDIDATES

Confirmands: O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen.

### PRAYER OF THE CONGREGATION

**ALL: Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### ACT OF CONFIRMATION

### QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

### WELCOME & GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

One: Let us, the members of the United Church of Christ in Neillsville, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**ALL: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

### THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done:

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

**HYMN** "Take My Gifts"

#562 NCH Shirley Erena Murray

1 Take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me,  
gave me light and food and shelter,  
gave me life and set me free,  
now because your love has touched me,  
I have love to give away,  
now the bread of love is rising,  
loaves of love to multiply!

2 Take the fruit that I have gathered  
from the tree your Spirit sowed,  
harvest of your own compassion,  
juice that makes the wine of God,  
spiced with humor, laced with laughter -  
flavor of the Jesus life,  
tang of risk and new adventure,  
taste and zest beyond belief.

3 Take whatever I can offer -  
gifts that I have yet to find,  
skills that I am slow to sharpen,  
talents of the hand and mind,  
things made beautiful for others  
in the place where I must be:  
take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me.

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RADIO BROADCAST**

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

This week's radio broadcast  
is sponsored by Sharon Buddenhagen  
in celebration of Byrl's 80th birthday  
& to honor all mothers on Mother's Day

**WELCOME**

We welcome you to our service of worship!  
We are glad that you have joined us in  
person, 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, May 12, 2024

<https://youtube.com/live/ks9ljgceVcl>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday, May 12th – Worship**

- 10 AM Deacon Host – Janice Miller  
Greeter(s) – Cris & Lisa Hediger  
Usher(s) – Paul Vine & Kelley Burch

**Tuesday, May 14th –**

-10:30 AM – Investment Comm. Meeting

- 1 PM – Marge Goetsch Bible Study –

\*will meet in the lounge of church

**Wednesday, May 15th –**

- 1 PM – Stewardship Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

May 12 – Mother's Day/Confirmation -  
Christian Ed  
May 19 – Graduation Sunday – Carole Romens  
May 26 - Kathy Mathis  
June 2 -



**Meal  
Giveaway**

**UCC NEILLSVILLE**

515 WEST SECOND STREET

**May 19, 2024**

**10:45 -11:00 AM**