

First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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RINGING OF THE CARILLON

PRELUDE *"Sleepers Wake"* arr. Alec Wyton
Karen Mohr

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLE Jenny & Kevin Erickson
Today we light the first candle of Advent, the candle
of Hope.

ALL: On this day, we remember to hopefully look for
the coming of Christ.

HYMN *"When God is a Child"* Brian Wren
#165 W&R verse 1

Refrain:

When God is a child there's joy in our song,
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP

November ends. December begins.

We find our beginning and our ending in God.

Month after month, our God attends us and supports
us.

For God's company, we offer thanks and praise.

Let us worship the God who gives us Jesus Christ:

God who is the Alpha and the Omega,

the beginning and the end,

the Living One and our Redeemer, now and forever.

OPENING PRAYER (All)

Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming,

We wait filled with hope,

Knowing your light will shine in the darkness.

We wait anticipating your peace,

Believing that one day it will fill our world.

**We wait embracing your love,
May we reach out to share it with our neighbors.
We wait with joy,
Bubbling up in expectation of your birth.
Lord we wait,
Come soon and fill us with your life.**

HYMN *"Christ Be Our Light"*
Words & Music: Bernadette Farrell

**1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.**

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

**2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain***

**3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed. *Refrain***

**4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone. *Refrain***

PASSING OF THE PEACE

As forgiven and blessed children of God, let us share
with one another signs of hope, peace, joy and love.

One: May the God of Hope be with you.

Many: And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another with words such
as *"May the God of Hope be with you,"*
and the response: *"And also with you".*

RESPONSE: *"Wait for the Lord"*

#166 W&R (sing twice)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NLT)

¹⁴ "The day will come, says the Lord, when I will do for Israel and Judah all the good things I have promised them.

¹⁵ "In those days and at that time

I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line.

He will do what is just and right throughout the land.

¹⁶ In that day Judah will be saved,
and Jerusalem will live in safety.

And this will be its name:

'The Lord Is Our Righteousness.'

NEW TESTAMENT 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NLT)

⁹ How we thank God for you! Because of you we have great joy as we enter God's presence. ¹⁰ Night and day we pray earnestly for you, asking God to let us see you again to fill the gaps in your faith.

¹¹ May God our Father and our Lord Jesus bring us to you very soon. ¹² And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows. ¹³ May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 21:25-36 (NLT)

²⁵ "And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides. ²⁶ People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!"

²⁹ Then he gave them this illustration: "Notice the fig tree, or any other tree. ³⁰ When the leaves come out, you know without being told that summer is near. ³¹ In the same way, when you see all these things taking

place, you can know that the Kingdom of God is near.

³² I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things have taken place.

³³ Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

³⁴ "Watch out! Don't let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don't let that day catch you unaware, ³⁵ like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. ³⁶ Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man."

SERMON "Hope Blooms" Pastor Julie

HYMN *"All Earth is Waiting"* Alberto Taule'

#121 NCH

**1 All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
And open furrows, the sowing of our God.**

**All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true
liberty;**

It cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

2 Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,

"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel":

**One whose name is "God with us," our Savior shall
be,**

**Through whom hope will blossom once more within
our hearts.**

3 Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;

Open new highways, new highways for our God,

Who is now coming closer, so come all and see,

And open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

4 In lowly stable the Promised One appeared,

Yet feel that presence throughout the earth today,

For Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;

Again, on arriving Christ brings us liberty.

MORNING PRAYERS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Come, for the way has been lit before you.

Come and take in and take on the hope of Christ that is being reborn in us today.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise!

...And so we offer ourselves in union with Christ's
offering of salvation:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Breaking Bread And Pouring Wine

Sharing The Elements

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

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 "Veni Emmanuel" Alec Wyton

Doxology: "In the Bleak Midwinter" #128 verse 4

What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
But what can I offer: all my heart.

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, in faith and hope we offer our gifts of
money and self, that we may be part of what you
are doing in the world even now, as we watch for
Christ's coming in glory. Amen.

HYMN "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

#122 NCH Charles Wesley

1 Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
grant us your true liberty.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope to all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation,
enter every longing heart.

3 Born all people to deliver,
born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever,
come, be known, to us again.

**4 By your own eternal Spirit,
come to claim us as your own;
By your all-sufficient merit,
let us share your cross and crown.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

"Christ, Be Our Light" verse 4

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell

**Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.**

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

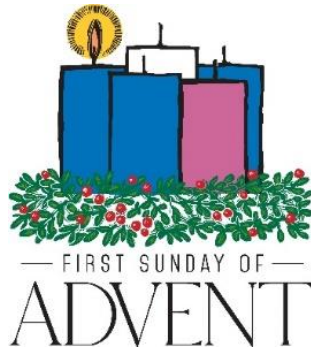
ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored
anonymously by
"a faithful listener".

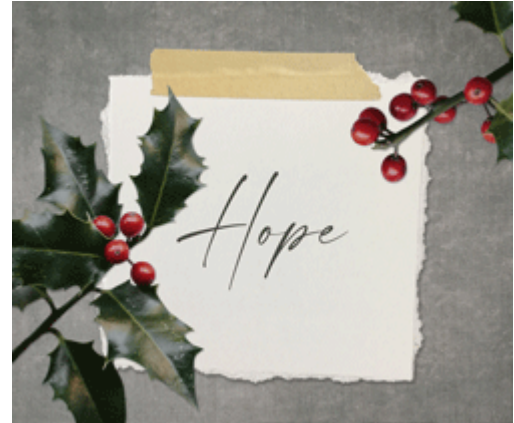




WELCOME

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.



Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Dec 1 – Mathis'

Dec 8 –

Dec 15 – Christian Ed

Dec 22 -

We need people to sign up

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 1st –

- **10 AM** Deacon Host – JoAnn Wren
- Greeter(s) – Sandy Bieneck, Michelle Bergemann
- Usher(s) – Bob & Barb Petkovsek
- PowerPoint – Bonnie Weyer

Monday, December 2nd –

- **9 AM** Card Making

Tuesday, December 3rd –

- **1 PM** Bible Study
- **5 PM** Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, December 4th -

- **5 PM** JAM Christmas Program Practice

We are now taking poinsettia orders to enjoy them
earlier during the



Christmas Season. They
can be ordered in honor
of, in memory of - the
cost is \$17- red, white,
pink, salmon colors are

available. – please contact the church office to
place your order. **Deadline for ordering is
December 5th.** Make your checks out to UCC.