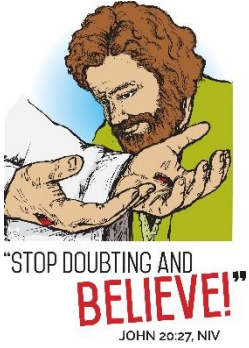


Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger



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PRELUDE "Air II" George F. Handel

Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 150)

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in the sanctuary.

Worship God in the mighty firmament.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

Praise God with trumpet and horn.

Worship God with lute and harp.

Let the people of God sing their praise.

Praise God with tambourine and dance.

Worship God with strings and pipes.

Let the faithful join the strain.

Praise God with clashing cymbals.

Praise God with beating drums.

Praise the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN "Yours is the Glory"

#253 NCH Edmund L. Budry

1 Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!

Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.

Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away;

Conquered is the grave in which your body lay.

Refrain:

Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!

Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.

2 See, it is Jesus, Jesus has appeared;

Do not doubt at all for nothing you will fear.

Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing;

Tell it without ceasing: Death has lost its sting.

Refrain

3 Am I still frightened? One whom I adore,
Jesus, lives again, gives peace forevermore.
Jesus is my victory, life and strength and Head;
Jesus is my glory, nothing shall I dread.

Refrain

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

God who abides in our doubts,

we yearn for the courage to believe

where we have not seen;

we long for the ability to perceive

things hidden from our eyes;

we desire to embrace the riches of our faith

when death looms all around us.

Like Thomas before us, we often struggle to believe
the mystery of your resurrection. So many doubts
remain. So much uncertainty closes our minds to the
wisdom that stirs our souls. Yet you work in and
through our doubts, leading us ever deeper into the
mystery of Christ, through the power of your Holy
Spirit.

May we see Christ's glory amidst our doubts and
proclaim with Thomas, "My Lord and my God!"
Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be with you.

Many: And also 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".

RESPONSE: "Halle, Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

#236 NCH Caribbean Melody

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

CHILDREN’S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia.

Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne; ⁵ and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world.

All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. ⁶ He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

⁷ Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him— even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen!

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

RESPONSE “He is Lord” #305 W&R

He is Lord, he is Lord!

He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess

That Jesus Christ is Lord!

Gospel: John 20:19-31

¹⁹ That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁰ As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! ²¹ Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” ²² Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴ One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came.

²⁵ They told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

²⁶ Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”

²⁸ “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”

³⁰ The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

SERMON “Believing is Seeing” Pastor Julie

HYMN “We Live by Faith and Not by Sight”

#256 NCH Henry Alford

1 We live by faith, and not by sight;

No gracious words we hear

From Christ who spoke as none e’er spoke,

Who still we know is near.

2 We may not touch Christ’s hands and side,

Nor follow where Christ trod;

But in confessing we rejoice,

Our Savior and our God!

3 Help then, O Christ, our unbelief;

And may our faith abound,

To call on you when you are near,

And seek where you are found.

4 That when our life of faith is done,

In realms of clearer light,

We may behold you as you are,

With full and endless sight.

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 *"Thou Shalt Bring Them In"* G.F. Handel

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

Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, you are the source of every blessing. We behold your glory in the skies and touch your mystery all around us. In the beauty of our awakening, our doubts give way to a deep and abiding joy. In gratitude for your many mercies, we offer you these gifts and offerings, that they may be signs of our commitment to live as your faithful disciples. Amen.

HYMN *"Lord of the Dance"*

#118 W&R Sydney Carter

1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the Dance went on.

Refrain

3 I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
The holy people said it was a shame;
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;
And they left me there on a cross to die.

Refrain

4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance and I still go on.

Refrain

5 They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain

BLESSING FOR THE GIFT OF DOUBT

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN *"Lord of the Dance" Refrain #118 W&R*

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

BENEDICTION

Believe where you have not seen.
Our hearts will lead the way.
Trust where you have reason to doubt.
Our souls will lead us home.
Hope where you have cause to despair.
Our lives will know joy and peace.
Go with God's blessing.

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 Russ & Susie Karl
in celebration of their
51st wedding anniversary.

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 27, 2025
<https://youtube.com/live/e68g5J4yHYg>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, April 27th

- **10 AM Worship** Deacon Host – JoAnn Wren
Greeter(s) – Nancy & Kirk Rodman
Usher(s) – Russ Karl, Paul Schmidt
PowerPoint – Barb Petkovsek

Tuesday, April 29th

- **1 PM Bible Study**

Wednesday, April 30th

- **5 PM JAM** meets at UCC
- **6:30 PM** –
Confirmants & families meet with Council

Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up on back bulletin board

Apr 27 - Chicken Fundraiser – no fellowship
May 4 – Confirmation Sunday – Christian Ed.
May 11 - Mother's Day – no fellowship
May 18- Graduation Sunday
May 25-
We need people to sign up



CHICKEN BBQ
★ **FUNDRAISER** ★

United Church of Christ
Neillsville
515 West Second Street
APRIL 27, 2025 11:15 am-12:30 Noon

Donation

1/4 Chicken 14 and over-\$10 6-13-\$7 Under 5-Free	1/2 Chicken 14 and over-\$15
Carryout Chicken, beans coleslaw, dinner roll	Dine In Chicken Buffet