

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"The Last Spring"* Edward Grieg
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

May God be gracious to us and bless us.

May God's face shine upon us and bring us peace!

Let all people praise you, O Lord.

Let all people shout their joy to your holy name.

God blesses us continually throughout all our lives.

Thanks be to God, for God's eternal love and blessing.

OPENING PRAYER

God, we remember with wonder and joy that your spirit is reaching everywhere: rejoicing in the liveliness of all living things; touching what is wounded or ill with healing power; gathering in the lonely, the lost, the least; creating and recreating a vision of hope.

Come now, Holy Spirit. Let our worship rejoice in you, and lift our hearts, and bind us in one family of loving grace. Amen.

HYMN *"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

#436 NCH Harry Emerson Fosdick

**1 God of grace and God of glory;
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's,
from the fears that long have bound us;
free our hearts for faith and praise.**

**Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Holy and beloved God, you promise us your Spirit – a constant companion, a wise guide, a source of courage and peace. Yet we confess that we often close our hearts to your presence. We cling to control when you ask us to trust, and we choose comfort over calling. You lead us to those in need, but we hesitate to help. You open doors for justice, but we walk past them in awkward silence. You whisper truth, but we turn up the volume of living our lives. Forgive us, Spirit of Truth. Unclench our hands. Unblock our ears. Unbind our hearts. And wherever we are – wherever you send us – help us walk in your Way. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

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"* (twice)

#236 NCH Caribbean Melody

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT Acts 16:9-15

⁹ That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" ¹⁰ So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

¹¹ We boarded a boat at Troas and sailed straight across to the island of Samothrace, and the next day we landed at Neapolis. ¹² From there we reached Philippi, a major city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. And we stayed there several days.

¹³ On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. ¹⁵ She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my home." And she urged us until we agreed.

NEW TESTAMENT John 14:23-29

²³ Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. ²⁴ Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵ I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. ²⁶ But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

²⁷ "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. ²⁸ Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is greater than I am. ²⁹ I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.

SERMON "Peace Be With You" Pastor Julie

HYMN "I've Got Peace Like a River"

#478 NCH African-American Spiritual

**1 I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.**

**2 I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.**

**3 I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.**

**4 I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor, in my soul.
I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor, in my soul.**

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 "Margretes Cradlesong" Grieg

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

Almighty God, who made us who we are, we offer all of ourselves to You. Take our talents, our energy and our joy, and use us to share Your love. Take our mistakes, our regrets and our pain, and use us to bring Your healing. Magnify the gifts we offer before You today, to spread Your peace in the world. Amen.

HYMN *“Go My Children, With My Blessing”*

#82 NCH

Jaroslav J. Vajda

1 Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
you are my own.

In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own.

2 Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me;

Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.

Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here with tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN *“God Be With You”* Jeremiah E. Rankin

#81 NCH (v. 1)

1 God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,

Till we meet at Jesus’ feet;

Till we meet, till we meet,

God be with you till we meet again.

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 JoAnn Wren
“In Honor of All Veterans, past and present”.



**PERMANENT TIME
CHANGE FOR WORSHIP
SERVICE WILL BEGIN ON
MEMORIAL DAY
WEEKEND –**

**SUNDAY, May 25th
at 9:30 AM and
continue year round.**

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, May 25, 2025

https://youtube.com/live/x_Vgk3shSmc

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, May 25th

- **9:30 AM Worship** Deacon Host – Sally Sadowska
Greeter(s) – Phil & Donita Follen
Usher(s) – Mike & Debbie Perkl
PowerPoint – Janice Miller

Tuesday, May 27th

- **1 PM Bible Study**

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

May 25- Mathis'
June 1 – Vacation Bible School after worship
June 8 –
June 15 -

We need people to sign up

A new teen Christian youth group has started in our community! Their name is **C.R.O.S.S.** They are starting their first food drive campaign to contribute to our local food pantry. There will be several other **drop off sites** throughout our community including **here at UCC.**

**This cereal food drive will begin
May 1st and goes through May 31st
Let's fill the red box with cereal**

Please bring your donations in before May 31st
- at this time our box is **EMPTY**
Let's show our generosity.



With Gratitude and Honor

Gracious God, on this Memorial Day weekend, we remember and give thanks for those who have given their lives in the service of our country. When the need was greatest, they stepped forward and did their duty to defend the freedoms that we enjoy, and to win the same for others.

O God, you yourself have taught us that no love is greater than that which gives itself for another. These honored dead gave the most precious gift they had, life itself, for loved ones and neighbors, for comrades and country - and for us.

Help us to honor their memory by caring for the family members they have left behind, by ensuring that their wounded comrades are properly cared for, by being watchful caretakers of the freedoms for which they gave their lives, and by demanding that no other young men and women follow them to a soldier's grave unless the reason is worthy and the cause is just.

Holy One, help us to remember that freedom is not free. There are times when its cost is, indeed, dear. Never let us forget those who paid so terrible a price to ensure that freedom would be our legacy.

Though their names may fade with the passing of generations, may we never forget what they have done. Help us to be worthy of their sacrifice,

O God, help us to be worthy.

- J. Veltri, S.J.