

## Third Sunday of Easter

### Confirmation Sunday

May 4, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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**PRELUDE** "All Things Bright & Beautiful" Gordon Young  
Karen Mohr

#### RINGING OF THE CARILLON

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 30)

Sing praises to God, you people of faith.

**We give thanks to God, who heals and restores.**

Praise God who transforms us, who heals and loves us.

**Praise God, who clothes us with joy.**

Do not be silent. Praise the Lord!

**We give thanks to our God, today and always.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

Living God of past and future, we praise you for this present moment. Fill us with your joy and empower us with your Holy Spirit, that our strength may be renewed to sing a new song of your glory in a world which longs for your justice and peace. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, in whom we become your new creation. Amen.

#### HYMN "Now in the Days of Youth"

**#350 NCH** Walter J. Mathams Adapt. Sylvia G. Dunstan

**1 Now in the days of youth,  
When life is filled with choice,  
When hope and doubt touch every hour,  
When all thoughts find a voice,  
We turn, O God, to you  
for guidance and for grace.  
In all our days, in all our ways,  
help us to seek your face.**

**2 Teach us to use our lives  
with purpose and with power  
For visions of a better world  
and for decision's hour;**

**To choose the way of life,  
reject the way of death,  
Until the radiant force of God  
fills mind and strength and breath.**

**3 Teach us to love in truth,  
To give and to receive  
With joyful and with open hearts,  
With all that we believe;  
To seek another's good,  
To honor what is right,  
To let our will and our desire  
Be held in holy light.**

**4 Teacher, Creator, God,  
Enfold us in your arms;  
Be with us as we try our wings,  
And keep us safe from harm.  
All good and perfect gifts  
Come to us from your hand.  
O help us use them carefully  
And live by love's command.**

#### 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"

**#236 NCH** Caribbean Melody

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

#### CHILDREN'S TIME

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **NEW TESTAMENT John 21:1-19**

<sup>1</sup> Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. <sup>2</sup> Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.

<sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.” “We’ll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.

<sup>4</sup> At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn’t see who he was. <sup>5</sup> He called out, “Fellows, have you caught any fish?” “No,” they replied.

<sup>6</sup> Then he said, “Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!” So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

<sup>7</sup> Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. <sup>8</sup> The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. <sup>9</sup> When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.

<sup>10</sup> “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus said. <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn.

<sup>12</sup> “Now come and have some breakfast!” Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.” “Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him.

<sup>16</sup> Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.” “Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said.

<sup>17</sup> A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.

<sup>18</sup> “I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don’t want to go.” <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, “Follow me.”

**SERMON** “Feed My Sheep” 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** “*You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*”

**#173 NCH** *Transl.* Madeline Forell Marshall

**1 You have come down to the lakeshore  
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
But only asking for me to follow.**

***Refrain:***

**O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;  
Kindly smiling, you’ve called out my name.  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you, I will seek other seas.**

**2 You know full well my possessions.  
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,  
Just these my fishnets and will for working.**  
***Refrain***

**3 You need my hands, my exhaustion,  
Working love for the rest of the weary -  
A love that’s willing to go on loving.**  
***Refrain***

**4 You who have fished other waters;  
You, the longing of souls that are yearning:  
As loving Friend, you have come to call me.**  
***Refrain***

## SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

### Invitation

Kyson Erickson, Tyler Williams, William Ziegler

### Questions of the Candidates

#### Affirmation of Faith: UCC Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.

### Prayer of the Candidates

#### 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

#### Prayer of Confirmation

#### Address

#### Question about Participation

#### Welcome & Greeting of Christian Love

Moderator: 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.**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to the Table

#### Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Rejoice and be glad.

**We praise God with joy.**

Thanks be to God.

**We thank God with our whole hearts.**

...And so, we join all creation as we sing praise to you:

**Worthy is our God and worthy is Jesus Christ!**

**Power and might be yours!**

**Wisdom and honor be yours!**

**Glory and blessing be yours!**

**Alleluia and amen, now and forever. Amen.**

...And so, we offer our very selves, with glad and grateful hearts, as we proclaim this mystery:

**Christ was with us from the beginning.**

**Christ is with us today.**

**Christ will be with us until the end of time.**

## Sharing The Elements

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

We have gluten-free available if you need.

The wine is red, and the juice is white.

## Prayer Of Thanksgiving

Holy God, in this place, at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us. Grant that we may go from here filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. As we have been fed, let us now go and feed your sheep. Amen

## THE OFFERING SERVICE

### Invitation to Generosity

Offertory "For the Beauty of the Earth" Gordon Young

### 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

Thank you, God, for the gifts and ministries of your people. Grant that this offering given in thanksgiving for all the blessings you have given us will fill empty hearts with love and will proclaim your honor and glory in the name of Christ Jesus to all people. Amen.

HYMN "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

#347 NCH (vs 1-2) Fred Kaan

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,  
Reaching out with a shout of joy:  
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

#### *Refrain:*

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
Pass the Word around: Loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
Pass the Word around: Loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one,  
at his table he set the tone,  
Teaching people to live to bless,  
Love in word and in deed express.

*Refrain*

## BLESSING

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

#347 NCH vs. 3

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) everywhere!

#### *Refrain:*

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
Pass the Word around: Loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
Pass the Word around: Loaves abound!

### COMMISSIONING (All)

Be a blessing

**Practice peace**

Lead with love

**Be joyful**

Pray often

**Be kind**

Give thanks

**Do good**

Have courage

**Work for justice**

Encourage others

**Be the light**

### 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 Jim & Rosie Repinski in honor of our confirmands, "May today always be remembered, the grace of God has given you the Holy Spirit to guide you this day forward."

**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 4, 2025  
<https://youtube.com/live/qCryi168o9w>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday, May 4th**

- **10 AM Worship** Deacon Host – Wayne Voss  
Greeter(s) – Lydia Schumacher, Karen Northup  
Usher(s) – Lexi Bergemann, Calvin Heck, Lexi Woods  
PowerPoint – Emile Miller

**Monday, May 5th**

- **9 AM** Card Making

**Tuesday, May 6th**

- **1 PM** Bible Study

**Wednesday, May 7th**

- **1 PM** Stewardship Comm. meeting

**Coffee fellowship after worship -  
Sign up on back bulletin board**

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



**Celebrating our Confirmands**

**Kyson Erickson** – son of Chad & Lacey Erickson  
mentor- Jenny Erickson

**Tyler Williams** – son of Scott & Jill Williams  
mentor – Barb Petkovsek

**William Ziegler** – son of Joshua & Jenna Ziegler  
mentor – Bonnie Weyer