

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
**June 29, 2025**  
United Church of Christ - Neillsville  
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

All music in this service copied and streamed under  
OneLicense.net A-723900 and CCLI License # 20913817

**PRELUDE** *"Fairest Lord Jesus" with*  
*"My Heart Ever Faithful"* arr. Anna Louise Page  
Karen Mohr

**RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 77)**

Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our  
God?

**You work wonders and display your glory. How  
great is our God!**

Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so merciful as  
our God?

**You redeem your people from generation to  
generation. How merciful is our God!**

Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so just as our  
God?

**You hear the cries of the troubled and move in  
righteousness. How just is our God!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Holy One, we come before you today: full of hope,  
full of desire, full of promise. Help us take up the  
mantle of faith you have laid before us, that we  
may use our own gifts of the Spirit to face the  
challenges before us. Help us face the turmoil  
within and around us, that we may face the future  
unafraid. Show us your way, your truth, and your  
life. Amen.

**HYMN** *"For Freedom, Christ Has Set Us Free"*

*Tune: ELLACOMBE ("I Sing the Mighty Power of God")*

*Text: © 2000 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.*

**1 "For freedom, Christ has set us free!"  
What joy is ours to claim!  
No more enslaved, humanity  
Finds life in Jesus' name.**

**We try, Lord, to be justified  
Through all the works we do.  
Yet you adopt us, saying, "Child,  
It's Christ who makes you new."**

**2 We're clothed in Christ and we belong;  
Now no one waits outside.  
In him we find our common song;  
Old ways no more divide.  
"It is no longer I who live,  
But Christ who lives in me."  
He died for us, new life to give —  
And new identity.**

**3 Now, Spirit-filled, may we be led  
From ways that would destroy.  
May we your people turn instead  
To lives of love and joy.  
May we find peace that makes us whole  
And patience everywhere.  
God, give us kindness, self-control,  
And hearts and hands that share.**

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

Gracious Lord, you have blessed us with freedom—  
freedom to follow or to turn away; freedom to love  
or to hate; freedom to heal or to hurt. You ask only  
that we follow your ways, loving our neighbors as  
ourselves. In the midst of our turbulent lives, help  
us find teachers to show us the gifts you set within  
us. And help us claim these gifts today. Amen.

**WORDS OF GRACE**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

As forgiven and blessed 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:** *“Where the Spirit of the Lord Is”*

**Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace.  
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love.  
There is comfort in life’s darkest hour,  
There is light and life, there is help and power  
In the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.**

## **CHILDREN’S TIME**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21**

<sup>15</sup> Then the Lord told him, “Go back the same way you came, and travel to the wilderness of Damascus. When you arrive there, anoint Hazael to be king of Aram. <sup>16</sup> Then anoint Jehu grandson of Nimshi to be king of Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from the town of Abel-meholah to replace you as my prophet.

<sup>19</sup> So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away. <sup>20</sup> Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, “First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!”

Elijah replied, “Go on back, but think about what I have done to you.”

<sup>21</sup> So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.

#### **NEW TESTAMENT Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

<sup>1</sup> So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law.

<sup>13</sup> For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup> But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

<sup>16</sup> So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. <sup>17</sup>

The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. <sup>18</sup> But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

<sup>19</sup> When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. <sup>25</sup> Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.

#### **HYMN “The Fruit of the Spirit”**

*Tune: ASH GROVE (“Let All Things Now Living”)*

*Text: © 2006 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.*

**The fruit of the Spirit is love for our sharing,  
It's joy in the gospel that we have from you.  
It's peace that we live out with courage and daring;  
It's patience, for we know that we have sinned, too.  
It's kindness in all things and generous giving;  
Its faithfulness seeking to follow your way.  
It's gentleness, Lord, and it's self-controlled living;  
Now make us more fruitful in these things, we pray.**

#### **NEW TESTAMENT Luke 9:51-62**

<sup>51</sup> As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival. <sup>53</sup> But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, “Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?” <sup>55</sup> But Jesus turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> So they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup> As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go."

<sup>58</sup> But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head."

<sup>59</sup> He said to another person, "Come, follow me."

The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father."

<sup>60</sup> But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God."

<sup>61</sup> Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family."

<sup>62</sup> But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."

**SERMON** "Free to Serve" Pastor Julie

**HYMN** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

**#292 NCH vs. 1-3** Edwin Hatch

**1 Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love the way you love,  
and do what you would do.**

**2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until with you I will one will,  
to do and to endure.**

**3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Stir in me one desire:  
That every earthly part of me  
May glow with holy fire.**

## **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** "Flute Solo" Thomas Arne

### **Doxology**

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth;  
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;  
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame;  
All glory, honor to God's name!**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**Receive our humble offerings, O Lord, for your work in the world. Bless those who give, those who send, and those who will receive these gifts. May our offering sow seeds of hope and bear the fruit of love wherever they are sown. Amen.**

**HYMN** "O God, In Whom All Life Begins"

**#401 NCH (vs 1-2)** Carl P. Daw, Jr.

**1 O God in whom all life begins,  
who births the seed to fruit,  
bestow your blessing on our lives;  
here let your love find root.  
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts  
of patience, joy, and peace;  
deliver us from numbing fear,  
and grant our faith increase.**

**2 Unite in mutual ministry  
our minds and hands and hearts  
that we may have the grace to seek  
the power your peace imparts.  
So let our varied gifts combine  
to glorify your name  
that in all things by word and deed  
we may your love proclaim.**

## **BLESSING**

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**HYMN** "O God, In Whom All Life Begins"

**#401 NCH (vs. 3)**

**3 Through tears and laughter, grief and joy,  
enlarge our trust and care;  
so bind us in community  
that we may risk and dare.  
Be with us when we gather here  
to worship, sing, and pray,  
then send us forth in power and faith  
to live the words we say.**

## COMMISSIONING (All)

Be the church:

**Protect the environment**

Care for the poor

**Forgive often**

Reject racism

**Fight for the powerless**

Share earthly and spiritual resources

**Embrace diversity**

Love God

**Enjoy this life!**

## 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 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.

YouTube link for Sunday, June 29, 2025

<https://youtube.com/live/d67S2qqCNA>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sunday, June 29th

#### **- 9:30 AM Worship**

Deacon Host – Byrl Buddenhagen

Greeter(s) Larry & Kathy Marshall

Usher(s) – Don Quicker, Jerry Quicker

PowerPoint – Paul Vine

### Tuesday, July 1st

#### **- 1 PM Bible Study**

### **Coffee fellowship after worship -**

Sign up on back bulletin board

June 29 – Sharon Buddenhagen

July 6 – Donita Follen

July 13 – Marla Raine

July 20 – Mathis' 😊

July 27 – Rodman's

We need people to sign up

