

Day of Pentecost

June 8, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"* J.S. Bach
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, Holy Spirit! Ignite our hearts with joy and confidence!

For God has done wondrous things for us.

Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with the power of the rushing wind that we may faithfully serve you in all that we do.

For Christ has called each of us and blessed us!

Come, Holy Spirit! Be with us today.

Help us to boldly proclaim Christ Risen.

OPENING PRAYER

God of wind and fire, embolden us this day to receive your power. Help us to proclaim the wondrous things that you have done and continue to do in our lives. Give us strength and courage to share the Good News of your love and your presence. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

HYMN *"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"* Doris Akers
#293 NCH

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise,
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been
revived when we shall leave this place.

2 There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know that Spirit's fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to stay with Jesus all the way."
Refrain

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

We confess to you, Renewing Spirit, that we confuse unity with uniformity, and diversity with divisiveness. We speak and behave as if being a part of your family means assimilating others to our way of living. We deny and destroy the beauty you created in each person. We long to change these patterns, O Creator, but we do not know how. Teach us to value challenge. Help us to see strength in difference. And empower us to build your kingdom in creativity and love. 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 *"Spirit of the Living God"* Daniel Iverson
#283 NCH

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 11:1-9

¹ At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. ² As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia and settled there.

³ They began saying to each other, "Let's make bricks and harden them with fire." (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.) ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world."

⁵ But the Lord came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶ "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! ⁷ Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."

⁸ In that way, the Lord scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the Lord confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

²⁴ O Lord, what a variety of things you have made!
In wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ Here is the ocean, vast and wide,
teeming with life of every kind,
both large and small.

²⁶ See the ships sailing along,
and Leviathan, which you made to play in the sea.

²⁷ They all depend on you
to give them food as they need it.

²⁸ When you supply it, they gather it.
You open your hand to feed them,
and they are richly satisfied.

²⁹ But if you turn away from them, they panic.
When you take away their breath,
they die and turn again to dust.

³⁰ When you give them your breath, life is created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

³¹ May the glory of the Lord continue forever!
The Lord takes pleasure in all he has made!

³² The earth trembles at his glance;
the mountains smoke at his touch.

³³ I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.
I will praise my God to my last breath!

³⁴ May all my thoughts be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord.

³⁵ Let all sinners vanish from the face of the earth;
let the wicked disappear forever.

Let all that I am praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

HYMN "Spirit, Working in Creation"

#128 W&R vs. 1,4

**1 Spirit, working in creation,
bringing order out of strife:
Come around God's gathered people,
giving harmony and life.
Spirit, speaking through the prophets
so the voice of God was heard:
Come, inspire, alert your people
to this day's prophetic word.**

**4 Spirit, wind and flame, empowering
fearless witness to the lost:
Come, unite, renew your wonders
as of a new Pentecost!
Praise and glory, Holy Spirit,
for your love on us outpoured,
Giving honor to the Father
and proclaiming Jesus "Lord."**

NEW TESTAMENT Acts 2:1-21

¹ On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. ² Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

⁵ At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

⁷ They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee,

⁸ and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! ⁹ Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” ¹² They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.

¹³ But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, “They’re just drunk, that’s all!”

¹⁴ Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that. ¹⁶ No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ‘In the last days,’ God says,

‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions,
and your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ In those days I will pour out my Spirit
even on my servants—men and women alike—
and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will cause wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below—
blood and fire and clouds of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will become dark,
and the moon will turn blood red
before that great and glorious day of the Lord
arrives.

²¹ But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved.’

SERMON “Blessed Diversity” Pastor Julie

HYMN “*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*”
#290 (vs. 1,3,5) George Croly, Frederick C. Atkinson

**1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
and make me love you as I ought to love.**

**3 Have you not bid us love you every way?
All, all your own; soul, heart, and strength, and
mind;**

**I see your cross - there teach my heart to stay:
O let me seek you, and O let me find.**

**5 Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.**

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**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Communion

Sharing The Elements

All are welcome to partake in the Feast of our Lord.
The table is open to all. Gluten-free bread is
available. The wine is red, and the juice is white.

Prayer Of Thanksgiving

**Spirit of God, who fed the multitudes, provided the
manna in the wilderness, and blessed the elements,
we give great thanks for the meal eaten and the
company surrounding us. Inspire us as we move
forward this day and encourage us to transform our
dreams into reality. Amen.**

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory “*Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling*” Kristina Langlois

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

Holy One, you have given yourself to us in Creator, in Christ, in the Spirit. We now give back to you: this money that seems so little; this worship that seems so small; these words that never quite get it right.

Receive what we offer and transform it by the power of your Spirit into: enough money, sufficient praise, worthy words for proclaiming and enacting your peace, justice, and love in the world. Amen.

HYMN "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"
#286 NCH (vs 1-3) James K. Manley

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the waters,
you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings."

Refrain

2 You swept through the desert,
you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were confounded
with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes.

Refrain

3 You sang in a stable,
you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still;
and down in the city
you called once again,
when you blew through your people
on the rush of the wind.

Refrain

PENTECOST BLESSING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"
#286 NCH vs. 4

4 You call from tomorrow,
you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow
the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions,
our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions
your people arise.

Refrain

COMMISSIONING & 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 with the message,
"May HIS word be heard by ALL"

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 8, 2025

<https://youtube.com/live/GQXg6y0U21E>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, June 8th

9:30 AM. Worship

Worship Deacon Host – Janice Miller

Greeter(s) Carole Romens

Usher(s) – Donita & Phil Follen

PowerPoint – Bonnie Weyer

Tuesday, June 10th

- 1 PM Bible Study

Wednesday, June 11th

- 1 PM Stewardship Comm. meeting



If we live by the

SPIRIT,

let us also keep
in step with the

SPIRIT.

GALATIANS 5:25, ESV

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

no one signed up for June 8

June 8 – **No Fellowship Today– Dairy Breakfast**

June 15 – JoAnn & Wayne Voss

June 22 –

June 29 – Sharon Buddenhagen

We need people to sign up

JUNE 15, 2025 FARM TO TABLE GIVEAWAY

10:15 -10:30 A.M.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - NEILLSVILLE

515 WEST 2ND STREET

SERVICES @ 9:30 A.M.

DONATIONS FROM

GRASSLAND DAIRY PRODUCTS

NASONVILLE DAIRY

LYNN DAIRY

BADGER STATE FRUIT

SMITH BROS. MEATS

ALL ARE WELCOME

