

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 13, 2025**  
United Church of Christ - Neillsville  
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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**PRELUDE** *"Prelude & Fugue in F"* J.S. Bach  
Karen Mohr

**RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

'Prepare the way,' the prophets call, 'make ready the  
highways for God.'

**How we long to walk down the sidewalks in God's  
kingdom of peace!**

Prepare your hearts, for God's realm opens up a new  
day.

**We yearn for the time when the wolf and lamb will  
live together in harmony.**

Prepare the way, God promises a new day when  
adversaries will lay down their arms.

**We dream of a world transformed by God's love.**

May the God of hope fill your hearts with all joy and  
peace.

**We rejoice for God's Spirit is in our midst!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**God of hope, we come to you in the midst of a  
world fraught with troubles. Although the darkness  
is powerful, open our eyes, Lord, to the light of your  
presence. Give us faith to stand against the voices  
of division and violence. Through your Spirit remake  
us into hope-filled disciples, working to create a  
world where your will is done as it is in heaven.  
Amen.**

**HYMN** *"Sweet Hour of Prayer"* Wm. Walford  
#505 NCH

**1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!  
that calls me from a world of care,  
and bids me at my Maker's throne  
let all my needs and wants be known.  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
my soul has often found relief,  
and oft escaped the tempter's snare  
by your return, sweet hour of prayer!**

**2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!  
the joys I feel, the bliss I share  
of those whose anxious spirits burn  
with strong desires for your return!  
With them I hasten to the place  
where I would know my Savior's face,  
And gladly take my station there,  
and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!**

**3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!  
whose wings shall my petition bear  
to One whose truth and faithfulness  
engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since I'm bid to seek God's face,  
believe God's word, and trust God's grace,  
I'll cast away my every care,  
and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!**

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

**Merciful God, help us to turn away from things that  
do not lead to life— from attitudes and actions that  
get in the way of our relationship with you and  
distract us from hearing your voice and doing your  
will. Open our eyes and ears to your presence and  
your call. Give us courage to take up our cross and  
follow where you lead, even if the path is uncertain  
or leads in unexpected directions. For you alone  
are God, and we are your people. Take our lives,  
and use us to your glory. 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:** *“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”*

**#489 W&R** Ken Medema

**Lord, listen to your children praying:**

**Lord, send your Spirit in this place.**

**Lord, listen to your children praying:**

**Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.**

## **CHILDREN’S TIME**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 2:2-5 (CEB)**

<sup>2</sup> In the days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house will be the highest of the mountains. It will be lifted above the hills; peoples will stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many nations will go and say, “Come, let’s go up to the Lord’s mountain, to the house of Jacob’s God so that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in God’s paths.” Instruction will come from Zion; the Lord’s word from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> God will judge between the nations, and settle disputes of mighty nations. Then they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war.

<sup>5</sup> Come, house of Jacob, let’s walk by the Lord’s light.

#### **OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 146 (CEB)**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord! Let my whole being praise the Lord!

<sup>2</sup> I will praise the Lord with all my life; I will sing praises to my God as long as I live. <sup>3</sup> Don’t trust leaders; don’t trust any human beings— there’s no saving help with them! <sup>4</sup> Their breath leaves them, then they go back to the ground. On that very same day, their plans die too.

<sup>5</sup> The person whose help is the God of Jacob— the person whose hope rests on the Lord their God— is truly happy! <sup>6</sup> God: the maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, God: who is faithful forever, <sup>7</sup> who gives justice to people who are oppressed, who gives bread to people who are starving! The Lord: who frees prisoners.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord: who makes the blind see. The Lord: who straightens up those who are bent low. The Lord: who loves the righteous. <sup>9</sup> The Lord: who protects immigrants, who helps orphans and widows, but who makes the way of the wicked twist and turn!

<sup>10</sup> The Lord will rule forever! Zion, your God will rule from one generation to the next! Praise the Lord!

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *“Thy Will Be Done”* Joyce Elaine Eilers  
Howie Mathis & Paul Schmidt

#### **NEW TESTAMENT Matthew 6:7-13 (CEB)**

<sup>7</sup> “When you pray, don’t pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they’ll be heard. <sup>8</sup> Don’t be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask. <sup>9</sup> Pray like this:

Our Father who is in heaven, uphold the holiness of your name. <sup>10</sup> Bring in your kingdom so that your will is done on earth as it’s done in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us the bread we need for today. <sup>12</sup> Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you, just as we also forgive those who have wronged us. <sup>13</sup> And don’t lead us into temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

#### **NEW TESTAMENT Matthew 12:46-50 (CEB)**

<sup>46</sup> While Jesus was speaking to the crowds, his mother and brothers stood outside trying to speak with him. <sup>47</sup> Someone said to him, “Look, your mother and brothers are outside wanting to speak with you.”

<sup>48</sup> Jesus replied, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” <sup>49</sup> He stretched out his hand toward his disciples and said, “Look, here are my mother and my brothers. <sup>50</sup> Whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven is my brother, sister, and mother.”

**SERMON** *“Thy Will Be Done”* Pastor Julie

#### **HYMN** *“Have Thine Own Way, Lord!”*

**#170 Red UCC (vs 1,4)** Adelaide Pollard  
**1 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after thy will,  
while I am waiting yielded and still.**

**4 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!  
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see  
Christ only, always, living in me!**

#### **MORNING PRAYERS**

## PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

*"The Lord's Prayer"* West Indian folk tune  
Mohr family

1 Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed-a be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come thy will be done,  
Hallowed-a be thy name.

2 Done on earth as it is in heaven,  
Hallowed-a be thy name.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
Hallowed-a be thy name.

3 And forgive all our debts,  
Hallowed-a be thy name.  
As we forgive our debtors,  
Hallowed-a be thy name.

4 Lead us not into temptation,  
Hallowed-a be thy name.  
But deliver us from evil,  
Hallowed-a be thy name.

5 Thine is the kingdom, power, and glory,  
Hallowed-a be thy name.  
Forever and ever,  
Hallowed-a be thy name.

6 Amen, amen, amen,  
Hallowed-a be thy name.  
Amen, amen, amen, amen,  
Hallowed-a be thy name.

## THE OFFERING SERVICE

### Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *"Assurance"* John Ness Beck

### 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

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us. In the upside down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, to bless your church, your people, your creation. Amen.

HYMN *"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"* #562  
W&R (vs. 1-2) H. Ernest Nichol

1 We've a story to tell to the nations,  
that shall turn their hearts to the right,  
a story of truth and mercy,  
a story of peace and light,  
a story of peace and light.

Refrain:

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,  
and the dawning to noonday bright;  
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,  
the kingdom of love and light.

2 We've a song to be sung to the nations,  
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,  
a song that shall conquer evil  
and shatter the spear and sword,  
and shatter the spear and sword. [Refrain]

## BLESSING

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN *"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"*  
#562 W&R (vs. 3)

3 We've a message to give to the nations,  
that the Lord who reigns above  
has sent us his Son to save us,  
and show us that God is love,  
and show us that God is love.

Refrain:

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,  
and the dawning to noonday bright;  
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,  
the kingdom of love and 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 anonymously  
"In Praise of Jesus Christ".

**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, July 13, 2025  
<https://youtube.com/live/CatSRhOy3iM>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday, July 13th**

**- 9:30 AM Worship**

Deacon Host – Sally Sadowska  
Greeter(s) Paul Vine & Kelley Burch  
Usher(s) – Hap Eddy, Roger Carl  
PowerPoint – Janice Miller

**Tuesday, July 15th**

**- 10:30 AM Investment Comm. meets**  
**- 1 PM Bible Study**

**Wednesday, July 16th**

**- 1 PM Stewardship Meeting**

**Thursday, July 17th**

**- 10:15 AM Book Club meets**  
at "Just Love" Cafe

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

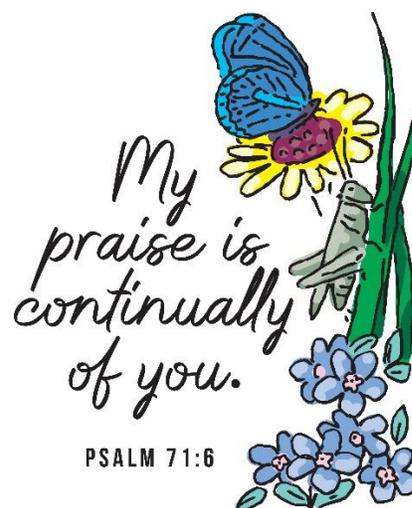
July 13 – Marla Raine

July 20 – Mathis' ☺

July 27 – Rodman's

Aug 3 -

We need people to sign up



**St. Mary's – Neillsville PCCW Summer Buffet**  
**Wednesday, July 16th 4 – 7 PM**

St. Mary's in Neillsville is having  
our Annual Summer Buffet.

We invite our neighbors at United Church of Christ  
to come and enjoy a variety of delicious salads,  
hot dishes and desserts.

- Free will offering
  - You can also bid on several silent auction items.
- Hope to see you.