

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 20, 2025
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE "Pavane" Gabriel Faure'
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

**We hunger for the bread of Jesus, the bread of life,
and we thirst for you, O God.**

O God, hear my voice!

Pay attention to my prayer for mercy.

**We hunger for the bread of Jesus, the bread of life,
and we thirst for you, O God.**

There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you, O
God.

My soul waits for You.

**We hunger for the bread of Jesus, the bread of life,
and we thirst for you, O God.**

In your words, I hope. My soul waits for you, God,
more than those who watch for the morning:

**We hunger for the bread of Jesus, the bread of life,
and we thirst for you, O God.**

OPENING PRAYER

**We praise you, O God, for the meaning that you give
to our lives in and through Jesus. He is the sign of
your deep and everlasting love for the world, and
we rejoice in his promise to sustain us with his
life. We praise you for filling our emptiness with his
goodness. May our worship and praise express our
thanks, O God, for your gift to us of the true bread
from heaven— Jesus Christ, your Son, our living
Lord. Amen**

HYMN "We Have Come to Join in Worship"

#647 W&R Ken Bible and George Atkins

**1 We have come to join in worship
and adore the Lord our God.**

**Let us come in prayer, expecting
God to speak His mighty Word.**

**All is vain unless the Spirit
Of the Holy One comes down.**

**Christians, pray, and holy manna
Will be showered all around.**

**2 See them gather all around you,
those He bought at such a cost;
see the weary, see the hurting
see the lonely, see the lost.**

**Be His hand and touch the needy
be His gospel, let it sound!**

**Be His body and sweet manna
will be showered all around.**

**3 Let us love our God supremely;
let us love each other, too.**

**Let us care for all His people
till our God makes all things new.**

**Christ will call us home to heaven;
at His banquet we'll sit down;
Christ Himself will rise and serve us
Living manna all around.**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

**You have given us a world of beauty, and we have
spoiled it. A world to feed everyone, and so many
go hungry. A world of riches, and we are unwilling
to share. A world to care for, and we think only of
ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, every time your
heart is saddened by our selfishness, every time we
have no thought for others, no cares but ours.
Enable us to see this world as a gift from you that
can be shared, that there is abundance enough for
all. We ask this that your name may be glorified,
through the beauty of this world, and the service of
our lives. 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 Deuteronomy 8:6-18

⁶ "So obey the commands of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and fearing him. ⁷ For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land of flowing streams and pools of water, with fountains and springs that gush out in the valleys and hills. ⁸ It is a land of wheat and barley; of grapevines, fig trees, and pomegranates; of olive oil and honey. ⁹ It is a land where food is plentiful and nothing is lacking. It is a land where iron is as common as stone, and copper is abundant in the hills. ¹⁰ When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

¹¹ "But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the Lord your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today. ¹² For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, ¹³ and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful! ¹⁴ Do not become proud at that time and forget the Lord your God, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt. ¹⁵ Do not forget that he led you through the great and terrifying wilderness with its poisonous snakes and scorpions, where it was so hot and dry. He gave you water from the rock! ¹⁶ He fed you with manna in the wilderness, a food unknown to your ancestors. He did this to humble you and test you for your own good.

¹⁷ He did all this so you would never say to yourself, 'I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.' ¹⁸ Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 58:6-11

⁶ "This is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. ⁷ Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

⁸ "Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind. ⁹ Then when you call, the Lord will answer. 'Yes, I am here,' he will quickly reply.

"Remove the heavy yoke of oppression. Stop pointing your finger and spreading vicious rumors! ¹⁰ Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon. ¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring.

HYMN "Break Now the Bread of Life"

#321 NCH Mary A. Lathbury

**1 Break now the bread of life, Savior, to me,
as you once broke the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
my spirit yearns for you, O Living Word.**

**2 Bless now the truth, dear Christ, to me, to me,
as you once blessed the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all shackles fall,
and I shall find my peace, my all in all!**

NEW TESTAMENT John 6:26-35

(First Nations Translation)

²⁶ Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said to them, "Listen closely to my words, you are not looking for me because of the powerful sign you saw, but only because you filled your bellies with food. ²⁷ Why are you working so hard for food that fades away?"

You should work for the food that gives you the life of the world to come that never fades away. The True Human Being will give you this food, for he has the Father's full approval."

²⁸ "What does Great Spirit require from us," they asked, "so we can do what he wants?"

²⁹ "Here is what he wants you to do," he answered, "put your trust in the one he has sent."

³⁰ "What powerful sign will you show us, that we should trust in you?" they asked. "What sign will you perform? ³¹ When our ancestors were wandering in the desert they ate bread, just as the Sacred Teachings tell us, 'From the spirit-world above he gave them bread to eat.'"

³² "Listen closely," Creator Sets Free (Jesus) answered. "Drawn from the Water (Moses) did not give you the bread from the spirit-world above. It is my Father who gives you the true bread that comes down from the spirit-world above. ³³ This bread gives the life of beauty and harmony to the world."

³⁴ "Honored One," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

³⁵ Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said, "I am the bread of life that came down from the spirit-world above. The ones who come to me will hunger no more. The ones who trust me will thirst no more."

SERMON "Give Us Our Daily Bread" Pastor Julie

HYMN "God's Eye is on the Sparrow"

#475 NCH Civilla D. Martin

**1 Why should I feel discouraged,
why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely,
and long for heaven and home,
When God is ever my portion?
My constant Friend will be:
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me.**

Refrain:

**I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me.**

**2 "Let not your heart be troubled,"
Christ's tender word I hear,
And resting on God's goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path God leads me
but one step I may see:
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me. [Refrain]**

**3 Whenever I am tempted,
whenever clouds arise,
When song give place to sighing,
when hope within me dies,
I then draw close to my Savior,
from care I am set free:
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me. [Refrain]**

MORNING PRAYERS

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (*First Nations Translation*)

O Great Spirit, our Father from above, we honor your name as sacred and holy.

Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below.

Provide for us day by day - the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon. The corn, the squash, and the wild rice. All the things we need for each day.

Release us from the things we have done wrong, in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.

Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road, and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways.

Aho! May it be so!

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

arr. Alice Jordan

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

Lord, you are the bread of heaven, giving life to the world. You fill our emptiness with your goodness. You come to our weakness with your strength. Take and use these gifts to bring in a rich harvest of your heavenly food and life-giving refreshment. Amen.

HYMN "Take My Gifts"

#562 NCH (vs 1-2) Shirley Erena Murray

1 Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!

2 Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God,
spiced with humor, laced with laughter -
flavor of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief.

BLESSING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "Take My Gifts"

#562 NCH (vs. 3)

3 Take whatever I can offer -
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Karen Mohr

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, July 20, 2025
<https://youtube.com/live/wQB67aWdaps>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, July 20th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon Host – Karlene Wallace
Greeter(s) Howie & Kathy Mathis
Usher(s) – Ben Mathis, Travis Vine
PowerPoint – Bonnie Weyer

Monday, July 21st

- 9 AM Card Making

Tuesday, July 22nd

- 1 PM Bible Study

Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up on back bulletin board

July 20 – Mathis' 😊
July 27 – Rodman's
Aug 3 - Wendy, Kelly, Haddie, Amelia
Aug 10 -
We need people to sign up

JULY 20, 2025

10:15 - 10:30 AM

**MEAL
GIVEAWAY**

**UCC - NEILLSVILLE
515 WEST SECOND STREET**

