

## **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 3, 2025**

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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### **PRELUDE** *"The Faithful Shepherd"*

George Frederick Handel

Karen Mohr

### **RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We rejoice in the one who leads us beside still  
waters,

**And refreshes our soul.**

Christ our Shepherd shows us the way we should go,  
**So that the name of God will be glorified.**

Though all manner of evil befall us, we will not be  
afraid,

**For the Great Shepherd of our souls is with us.**

We are never away from the love and mercy of the  
Lord,

**And we shall be with him forever and ever. Amen!**

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

**Shepherd of our lives, Guide us to the still waters.  
Lead us on the right paths. Walk beside us when we  
go through our darkest valleys. We know that you  
prepare the table before us, that you care for us,  
that we are your sheep forever. Help us in this  
world to do justice, love kindness, and to walk  
humbly with you; and wherever we may go, may  
we follow your path. In the name of Christ, the  
Good Shepherd, we pray. Amen.**

#### **HYMN** *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

#506 NCH Joseph Scriven

**1 What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer.**

**2 Have we trials and temptations?**

**Is there trouble anywhere?**

**We should never be discouraged;  
take it to our God in prayer!**

**Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?**

**Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to our God in prayer!**

**3 Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Burdened with a load of care?**

**Precious Savior, still our refuge--  
take it to our God in prayer!**

**Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to our God in prayer!**

**Jesus' arms will take and shield you;  
you will find a solace there.**

#### **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

**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** Psalm 23 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,

<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right  
paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and  
your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of  
my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup  
overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of  
the Lord forever.

## **PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Barb Shoemaker & Howie Mathis*

### **NEW TESTAMENT James 1:12-18 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> God blesses those who patiently endure testing  
and temptation. Afterward they will receive the  
crown of life that God has promised to those who  
love him. <sup>13</sup> And remember, when you are being  
tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is  
never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts  
anyone else. <sup>14</sup> Temptation comes from our own  
desires, which entice us and drag us away. <sup>15</sup> These  
desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is  
allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

<sup>16</sup> So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup>  
Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down  
to us from God our Father, who created all the lights  
in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting  
shadow. <sup>18</sup> He chose to give birth to us by giving us  
his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his  
prized possession.

### **Gospel: Luke 4:1-13 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the  
Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the  
wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where he was tempted by the devil for  
forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and  
became very hungry.

<sup>3</sup> Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of  
God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread."

<sup>4</sup> But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People  
do not live by bread alone.'"

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all  
the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup> "I  
will give you the glory of these kingdoms and  
authority over them," the devil said, "because they  
are mine to give to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> I will give it all  
to you if you will worship me."

<sup>8</sup> Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must  
worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest  
point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of  
God, jump off! <sup>10</sup> For the Scriptures say, 'He will order  
his angels to protect and guard you."

<sup>11</sup> And they will hold you up with their hands  
so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone."

<sup>12</sup> Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You  
must not test the Lord your God.'"

<sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left  
him until the next opportunity came.

**SERMON** "Lead Us, Deliver Us" Pastor Julie

**HYMN** "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

**#472 NCH vs. 1,3** Thomas A. Dorsey

**1 Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**3 When the shadows appear  
And the night draws near,  
And the day is past and gone,  
At the river I stand,  
Guide my feet, hold my hand:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

## **MORNING PRAYERS**

**HYMN** "The Lord's Prayer"

**#740 W&R** Albert Hay Malotte arr. Donald P. Hustad

**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. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to the Table

#### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### Prayer

#### Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

#### Sharing The Elements

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

#### Prayer Of Thanksgiving

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. As this spiritual meal has nourished us, inspire us to feed our neighbors and journey with the lonely. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

#### THE OFFERING SERVICE

##### Invitation to Generosity

Offertory "Adagio" Handel

##### 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

God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.

#### HYMN "Lead Us from Death to Life"

#581 NCH Marty Haugen

##### Refrain:

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;  
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
let peace fill our universe.

1 Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,  
Still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.  
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,  
Come and teach us your way of compassion. [Refrain]

2 So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,  
Longing for love to break into their anguish.  
Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,  
Come and teach us your way of compassion. [Refrain]

3 Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,  
Let us begin to grow into your people.  
We can be love, we can bring peace,  
We can still be your way of compassion. [Refrain]

#### BLESSING

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS

##### HYMN "Lead Us from Death to Life" Refrain

#581 NCH

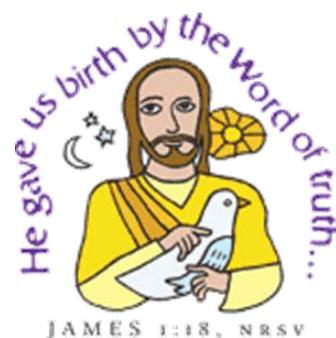
##### Refrain:

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from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
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Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
let peace fill our universe.

#### BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

Karen Mohr



**RADIO BROADCAST**  
**11 AM Sunday radio broadcast**  
**on WCCN 98.5FM and 1370AM**

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by JoAnn & Wayne Voss in honor of their seven great grandchildren.

### 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, August 3, 2025  
<https://youtube.com/live/bXlzCSav5ds>

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, August 3rd

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon Host – JoAnn Wren

Greeter(s) Stephanie, Sophie & Brynn Heck

Usher(s) – Craig, Calvin & Max Heck

PowerPoint – Emile Miller

Monday, August 4th

- 9:00 AM Card Making

- Noon – Interfaith Care Givers meet

Tuesday, August 5th

- 1:00 PM Bible Study

Wednesday, August 6th

- 6:00 PM Deacon's Meeting

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

Aug 3 - Wendy, Kelly, Haddie, Amelia  
Aug 10 – *Clark County Fair Service*  
Aug 17 - Bonnie Shaw  
Aug 24 – PANCAKE BRUNCH  
Aug 31 -  
We need people to sign up

Please join us at the Clark County Fairgrounds WCCN radio tent **NEXT SUNDAY, August 10th at – 9 AM** for a joint worship service with Calvary Lutheran Church.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Refreshments will be served - a Sign-up sheet for those who would like to bring treats will be on the back bulletin board.



*UCC-Neillsville*  
*515 West Second Street*  
*10:15-10:30 am*