

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE "Hymn to Joy" Beethoven
Deon Spangler

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

When the lost are found,
there is joy!
When hope overcomes despair,
there is joy!
When we seek and find God's faithfulness,
there is joy!
Praise to God who is present to us
through Christ Jesus!
**Praise to God who is present to us
through one another!**

OPENING PRAYER

**God of abundant grace, may your Holy Spirit be
with us now as we worship you this day. Open our
eyes to truly see one another, that we might
discover your presence in the smile of a neighbor.
Open our ears to the needs of the world, that we
might hear your wisdom in the words spoken
around us. And open our hearts to your grace and
love, that we might find guidance and strength for
the journey, for ourselves and for one another.
Amen.**

HYMN "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

#459 NCH Robert Robinson

**1 Come, O Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love!**

**2 Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger,
blessed body, precious blood.**

**3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for your very own.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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: "*Open Our Eyes, Lord*" #491 W&R
**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love
him.**

**Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Psalm 51

**Have mercy on us, O God,
because of your unfailing love.
Because of your great compassion,
blot out the stain of our sins.
Wash us clean from our guilt.
Purify us from our sin.
For I recognize my rebellion;
it haunts me day and night.
Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your sight.**

**You will be proved right in what you say,
and your judgment against me is just.
Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Oh, give me back my joy again;
you have broken me—
now let me rejoice.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a loyal spirit within me.**

WORDS OF GRACE

1 Timothy 1:15-17

This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.

HYMN “*Amazing Grace*” John Newton
#547 NCH (vs. 1,3)

**1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Exodus 32:7-14

⁷The Lord told Moses, “Quick! Go down the mountain! Your people whom you brought from the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. ⁸How quickly they have turned away from the way I commanded them to live! They have melted down gold and made a calf, and they have bowed down and sacrificed to it. They are saying, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.’”

⁹Then the Lord said, “I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. ¹⁰Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses tried to pacify the Lord his God. “O Lord!” he said. “Why are you so angry with your own people whom you brought from the land of Egypt with such great power and such a strong hand? ¹²Why let the Egyptians say, ‘Their God rescued them with the evil intention of slaughtering them in the mountains and wiping them from the face of the earth’? Turn away from your fierce anger. Change your mind about this terrible disaster you have threatened against your people! ¹³Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You bound yourself with an oath to them, saying, ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven. And I will give them all of this land that I have promised to your descendants, and they will possess it forever.’”

¹⁴So the Lord changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people.

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 15:1-10

¹Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. ²This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!

³So Jesus told them this story: ⁴“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. ⁶When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!

⁸“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.”

SERMON “Mercy and Joy” Pastor Julie

HYMN *"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"*

#252 NCH Dorothy Thrupp

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need your tender care;
in your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your folds prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are.

2 We are yours, in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.

3 Let us always seek your favor;
let us always do your will;

Jesus Christ, our only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.

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 *Reflection on "O Store Gud"*
Swedish Folk Melody

Doxology *"We Give You But Your Own"* W How
#785 NCH

We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone,
We give it gratefully.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for these gifts and ask that they be used to help the needy in our community and throughout the world. As we offer you these gifts, we offer ourselves as well, that together we might transform the world with your grace and love. Amen.

HYMN *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

#1 NCH (vs. 1-2) Walter C. Smith

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

BLESSING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

#1 NCH (vs. 3)

3 Your life is life-giving - to both great and small;
in all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish - but naught dims your powers.

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 Deon Spangler

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".

Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up on back bulletin board

Sept 14 – Weyer's & Hamm's
Sept 21 -
Sept 28 – Stewardship Committee
Oct 5 – Carole Romens
We need people to sign up

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, September 14, 2025
<https://youtube.com/live/wreEQH31Kuk>

**Meal
Giveaway**
UCC NEILLSVILLE
515 West Second Street
September 21, 2025
10:15 -10:30 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 14th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon Host – Wayne Voss
Greeter(s) Sandy Bieneck, Michelle Bergemann
Usher(s) – ~~Barb & Bob Petkovsek~~ volunteers
PowerPoint – Bonnie Weyer

Monday, September 15th

- 9:00 AM Card making

Tuesday, September 16th

- 1:00 PM Bible Study
- 5:30 PM Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

- 6:00 PM Immersion Bible Study



The LORD said to Moses,
"Go down at once!
Your people, whom you brought
up out of the land of Egypt,
have acted perversely."

Exodus 32:7, NRSV

