

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 2025

World Communion Sunday

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE "Kum Ba Yah" John Behnke
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *Written by Rev. Taisaku OBATA
(Minister, Ube Church, United Church of Christ in Japan)*

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict,
God is inviting us, to make us one.

**Many: Today we gather around one table, in
answer to God's will.**

One: What do we find at today's table?

**Many: God's love, which endures all things and
connects all things.**

One: What is not at today's table?

**Many: The many powers of the world, which seek
to stand over others.**

One: Let us repent and give thanks to God's power to
bring salvation to all who believe.

**Many: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of
Your love.**

**ALL: LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER THE TRUE GOD,
WHO MAKES US ONE.**

OPENING PRAYER

Spirit of God,
Open our hearts to the reality of your holy presence
in our midst. Let our worship be pleasing in your
sight, so that our gathering is an experience of deep
communion with you and one another. In the name
of Jesus Christ, this is our prayer. Amen.

HYMN "Gather Us In" Marty Haugen

**1 Here in this place, the new light is streaming,
Shadows of doubt are vanished away.**

**See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
Gather us in, our spirits inflame.
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**2 We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
We are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly;
Give us the courage to enter the song.**

**3 Here we will take the wine and the water;
Here we receive the bread of new birth;
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

**Comforting Spirit, it is all too easy for us to focus
only on the negative things in life, instead of
celebrating all that you provide that is positive and
good. Redirect our wayward hearts, Lord. Refocus
our wandering minds. Remind us of the hope we
have in you, for your love and mercies are without
end.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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: *"This is the Day"* Les Garrett

#84 NCH (vs.1)

**This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made,
that our God has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Lamentations 3:19-26

¹⁹ The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. ²⁰ I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. ²¹ Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this:

²² The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. ²³ Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. ²⁴ I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!"

²⁵ The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him. ²⁶ So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT 2 Timothy 1:1-14

¹ This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I have been sent out to tell others about the life he has promised through faith in Christ Jesus.

² I am writing to Timothy, my dear son.

May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord give you grace, mercy, and peace.

³ Timothy, I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ I long to see you again, for I remember your tears as we parted. And I will be filled with joy when we are together again.

⁵ I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.

⁶ This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

⁸ So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News. ⁹ For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News. ¹¹ And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News.

¹² That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.

¹³ Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 17:5-10

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Show us how to increase our faith."

⁶ The Lord answered, "If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'May you be uprooted and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you!"

⁷ "When a servant comes in from plowing or taking care of sheep, does his master say, 'Come in and eat with me'?" ⁸ No, he says, 'Prepare my meal, put on your apron, and serve me while I eat. Then you can eat later.' ⁹ And does the master thank the servant for doing what he was told to do? Of course not. ¹⁰ In the same way, when you obey me you should say, 'We are unworthy servants who have simply done our duty.'"

SERMON "Increase Our Faith" Pastor Julie

MORNING PRAYERS

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right
hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: Like a sower, God scatters, and God will give
growth.

Many: God scatters life across the earth.

One: God scatters people in every land and nation.

Many: God scatters disciples far and wide.

One: Like a shepherd, God gathers.

Many: God gathers people into families of faith.

One: God gathers people into communities of love.

Many: God gathers people into the body of Christ.

One: Today, on this World Communion Sunday, God
gathers us at one table with disciples of every
language, culture, and tradition. From cathedrals and
chapels, from huts and houses, from fields and cities,
God gathers us in many places and makes us one in
Christ. At this table, we remember the cost of
discipleship and rejoice in the richness of Christ's gifts
poured out for the whole world. On this World
Communion Sunday, we remember that though we
come from many places, we are one body, sharing
one bread and one cup in Christ.

Hymn *"One Bread, One Body"* #689 W&R

Refrain:

One bread, one body, one Lord of all

One cup of blessing which we bless

And we, though many, throughout the Earth

We are one body in this one Lord

1 Gentile or Jew, Servant or free

Woman or man, No more [Refrain]

**2 Many the gifts, many the works
One in the Lord of all [Refrain]**

**3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
Gathered to one, for all. [Refrain]**

Communion Prayer

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

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

We thank you, generous God, for the
nourishment of this table and the living presence
of Christ among us. We thank you for the gift of
growth and grace in this life-renewing feast. We
thank you for the company of your great cloud
of witnesses, here in this place, in every land,
and throughout the generations. Take your
gathered people and scatter us again into the
world—renewed, invigorated, and committed—
that, so nourished, we may take root and bear
life-giving fruit to feed, heal, clothe, and
comfort, in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *"Old French Chanson"*

Doxology *"We Give You But Your Own"* Wm. 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

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 "Great is Your Faithfulness"
#423 NCH (vs.1-2) Thomas O. Chisholm

1 Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator;
With you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions, they fail
not;
All of your goodness forever will be.

Refrain:
Great is your faithfulness,
Great is your faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed your hand has provided;
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
[Refrain]

BLESSING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "Great is Your Faithfulness"
#423 NCH (verse 3)

3 Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.

Great is your faithfulness,
Great is your faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed your hand has provided;
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Karen Mohr

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

This week's radio broadcast is given
by Jim & Rosie Repinski
in celebration of their
39th wedding anniversary.

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, October 5, 2025
<https://youtube.com/live/bKe0J8TyC8A>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, October 5th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon Host – JoAnn Wren

Greeters – Audrey Vradenburg, Jim Vradenburg

Ushers – Mickey Marty & Joel Raine

Power Point – Emile Miller

Following Sunday, October 12th

Deacon – Byrl Buddenhagen

Greeters – Pat Acheson, Herman Seebandt

Ushers – Emile Miller, Janet Meredith

Power Point – Bonnie Weyer

Monday, October 6th

- 9:00 AM Card Making

Tuesday, October 7th

- 1:00 PM Bible Study

Wednesday, October 8th

- 3:30 - 5:30 PM Confirmation here

5:00 PM JAM at Calvary

Thursday, October 9th

- 1:30 PM Circle of Friends Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Oct 5 – Emile Miller & Marla Raine

Oct 12 – Carole Romens

Oct 19 – Stewardship Committee

We need people to sign up