

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger



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PRELUDE *"What Child is This?"* John Rasley

GATHERING

Like the iconic figures gathered around the Christ Child in our nativity scenes, we gather together because we want to know Jesus more as we seek to bring his Reign of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love on earth.

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Centering Song: "Great Holy One"

by Brian Wren and Susan Heafield

**Great, Holy One, spreading time and space,
show us who You are in a human face.**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

Travis & Ashley Vine and Family

HYMN "What Child is This?" William C. Dix

#148 NCH (verse 1)

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

Light the Candle of Hope

**This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Here, at the nativity of your birth, give us the courage to face this moment with humility and hope. Open us to new understandings of the unfolding story of your presence among us. Show us the true meaning of the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We pray in the name of the Child, the One Who Reigns in our hearts and lives. Amen.

"BRING HIM LAUD" – OPENING HYMN/SONG

HYMN "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

#304 NCH (vs 1,3,4) St.1-3, Edward Perronet St.4, John Rippon

**1 All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown Christ servant of all.
Attend the Savior's sovereign claim,
and crown Christ servant of all.**

**3 All heirs of Israel's chosen race
now ransomed from the fall,
Proclaim the wonders of God's grace,
and crown Christ healer of all.
Proclaim the wonders of God's grace,
and crown Christ healer of all.**

**4 Before the cross, with heaven's throng
we on our knees shall fall;
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown Christ savior of all.
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown Christ savior of all.**

SIGNS OF HOPE

Leader: Peace be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: I invite you to pass the peace with one another and to those worshiping online, and I invite children to come forward as we do so!

PROCLAIMING

We open ourselves to the full story of Christ's birth, knowing that his story is the ground of our faith and the light for our path.

"HASTE, HASTE" – THE CHILDREN GATHER

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Lamentations 3:46-57 (Inclusive Bible Translation)

Our enemies laugh at us with open mouths.
The snare and pit of the hunter lie ahead of us—
 devastation and ruin!
Rivers of water run from my eyes
 because my people are destroyed.
Tears flow continuously from my eyes,
 refusing all comfort—
 all of this while YHWH watches from the
heavens.
My spirit is grieved as I see the fate of children in my
city.
Those who became my enemies without provocation
 chased and harangued me like a bird.

Luke 2:1-5 (Inclusive Bible Translation)

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register. And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to "the city of David"—Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant.

"ANTHEMS SWEET" – THE WORD IN MUSIC

"He Shall Reign Forevermore" by Chris Tomlin

SERMON "King of Kings" Pastor Julie

RESPONDING

Our faithful response is to praise God for this story of Emmanuel, God-With-Us, even and especially in the midst of difficulty, for God is indeed with us even still.

"WE KEEP WATCH" – PRAYERS IN WORD AND SONG

Centering Song: *"Great Holy One"*

by Brian Wren and Susan Heafield

Congregation:

**Great, Holy One, spreading time and space,
show us who You are in a human face.**

Time of Silent Contemplation

Soloist:

**Hidden one, how can we find you,
when our world is filled with pain,
and our praying is in vain?
If we knock and get no answer,
and we cannot cope, help us still to hope.**

Congregation:

**Great, Holy One, spreading time and space,
show us who You are in a human face.**

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**

Congregation:

**Great, Holy One, spreading time and space,
show us who You are in a human face.**

"SO, BRING HIM..." (OFFERING)

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory "What Child is This?" Paul Manz

Doxology "In the Bleak Midwinter"

#128 NCH vs. 4 Christina G. Rossetti

**What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
But what I can I offer: all my heart.**

Prayer of Dedication

God of Righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now; as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Just as our theme carol asks, "what child is this?" we, too, have come with our questions this day. We go into the world with answers of Good News, being the Body of Christ through our words and deeds.

CLOSING HYMN

"Precious Name" #536 UMH (vs. 1-3)

Words: Lydia Baxter; Music: William H. Doane

1 Take the name of Jesus with you,
Child of sorrow and of woe;
It will joy and comfort give you;
Take it then where'er you go.

Refrain:

Precious name, (precious name),
O how sweet! (O how sweet!)
Hope of Earth and joy of Heav'n.
Precious name, (precious name),
O how sweet! (O how sweet!)
Hope of Earth and joy of Heav'n.

2 Take the name of Jesus ever,
As a shield from ev'ry snare;
If temptations round you gather,
Breathe that holy name in prayer. [*Refrain*]

3 Oh! the precious name of Jesus,
How it thrills our souls with joy,
When his loving arms receive us,
And his songs our tongues employ. [*Refrain*]

WE ASK, WE ANSWER

As we prepare to go into the world,
let us ask and answer the question we came with:

What child IS this?

This is the one born into a time when hope was hard.

What child IS this?

This is the one whose lowly status would send a message of hope that alleviation of oppression is a holy endeavor.

What child IS this?

This, this is the "King of Kings" who shows us the way of true hope for all people.

SHARING OUR BLESSINGS AND BURDENS

As we are gathered together as children of God, we are called to share our blessings and joys and our concerns, our deepest fears, sadnesses, griefs and needs so that we may bear one another up and support each other in prayer and Christian love.

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: "What Child is This?" chorus

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

POSTLUDE

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast
is given by Jerry Quicker
in memory of his sons
Mike and Paul.

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, November 30, 2025
https://youtube.com/live/d8f_ca_ytRU

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, November 30th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Byrl Buddenhagen
Greeters – Sandy Bieneck & Michelle Bergemann
Ushers – Ray Weyer, Jerry Hamm
Power Point – Barb Petkovsek

Following Sunday, December 7th

Deacon – Barb Shoemaker
Greeters – Stephanie & Craig Heck
Ushers – Paul Schmidt, Cris Hediger
Power Point – Emile Miller

Monday, December 1st

- 9:00 AM Card Making

Tuesday, December 2nd

- 1:00 PM Bible Study

Wednesday, December 3rd

- 3:30 PM Confirmation
- 5:00 PM JAM – Practice
for Christmas Program

Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up on back bulletin board

Nov 30 – Sharon Buddenhagen
Dec 7 – Marla Raine
Dec 14 – Mathis'
Dec 21 – Christmas Program
We need people to sign up

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

Wednesday, December 24th –

Candlelight & communion served

4 PM - Family Christmas Eve Service

8 PM – “Old Fashioned Carols & Candles” Service

ORDER NOW - We are taking Poinsettia orders for the Advent Season. They are available in red, white, pink, and marble at \$18.00. They can be ordered in honor of, in memory of, or for any other reason you may have. Please have your orders in by December 9th, forms are available in the narthex.



A Daily Journal for Advent **What Child IS This?**

Available in the Narthex - \$5.00 donation to the Mission & Outreach Committee

Attend Sunday, December 7th
Concert at Calvary Lutheran Church at 2 PM featuring the **Clark County Male Chorus and Choraliers.**



REMINDER - Please have all December Newsletter articles into the office by **Monday, Dec. 2nd.**

