

## Transfiguration Sunday

February 15, 2026

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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**PRELUDE** "Devotion" John Ness Beck  
Karen Mohr

### RINGING OF THE CARILLON

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

As God called to Moses from the mountain,  
**we are called to be God's people.**

As Jesus called the disciples to climb with him  
to the peak of another mountain,  
**we are called to follow wherever he leads.**

As the disciples stood in awe at the sound of God's  
voice,  
**we are called to worship in wonder and praise.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, Light of light, God of all creation, long ago  
you showed yourself to the disciples in Jesus'  
transfiguration— his face glowing like the sun,  
clothes white as snow on a bright and dazzling  
winter morning. Shine in us, around us, and through  
us, that the world may see your glory in the faces of  
your people— faces transfigured in the light of your  
love. Amen.

**HYMN** "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"  
#182 NCH Carl P. Daw, Jr.

**1 We have come at Christ's own bidding  
to this high and holy place,  
where we wait with hope and longing  
for some token of God's grace.  
Here we pray for new assurance  
that our faith is not in vain,  
searching like those first disciples  
for a sign both clear and plain.**

**2 Light breaks through our clouds and shadows;  
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word;  
Moses and Elijah marvel  
as the heavenly voice is heard.**

**Eyes and hearts behold with wonder  
how the law and prophets meet:  
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,  
stands transfigured and complete.**

**3 Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,  
fearful lest our faith decline,  
we like Peter find it tempting  
to remain and build a shrine.  
But true worship gives us courage  
to proclaim what we profess,  
that our daily lives may prove us  
people of the God we bless.**

### PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Though we want to walk with Moses and see God's  
holy radiance, we hide in the mist of our own  
desires, unable to perceive the presence of God's  
grace. While we want a world of justice and peace,  
we walk in clouds of selfishness, unable to share  
God's loving-kindness. Though we want to follow  
Jesus up the mountain, we cower in fear, unable to  
bear the light of God.

### WORDS OF GRACE

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

As we share the peace of Christ with one another,  
may the light of Christ shine in you always.

**Many: And also in you.**

All are invited to greet one another with words such  
as "May the light of Christ shine in you"  
and the response: "And also in you".

**RESPONSE:** "We Are Marching in the Light of God"

#526 NCH South African song

**We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God (light of God).  
We are marching (marching, we are marching),  
Oh - We are marching in the light of God (light of God).  
We are marching (marching, we are marching),  
Oh - We are marching in the light of God.**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### OLD TESTAMENT Exodus 24:12-18

<sup>12</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain. Stay there, and I will give you the tablets of stone on which I have inscribed the instructions and commands so you can teach the people." <sup>13</sup> So Moses and his assistant Joshua set out, and Moses climbed up the mountain of God.

<sup>14</sup> Moses told the elders, "Stay here and wait for us until we come back. Aaron and Hur are here with you. If anyone has a dispute while I am gone, consult with them."

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses climbed up the mountain, and the cloud covered it. <sup>16</sup> And the glory of the Lord settled down on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from inside the cloud. <sup>17</sup> To the Israelites at the foot of the mountain, the glory of the Lord appeared at the summit like a consuming fire. <sup>18</sup> Then Moses disappeared into the cloud as he climbed higher up the mountain. He remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

#### NEW TESTAMENT 2 Peter 1:16-21

<sup>16</sup> For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes <sup>17</sup> when he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup> Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you

must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, <sup>21</sup> or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

#### NEW TESTAMENT Matthew 17:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Six days later Jesus took Peter and the two brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. <sup>2</sup> As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and began talking with Jesus.

<sup>4</sup> Peter exclaimed, "Lord, it's wonderful for us to be here! If you want, I'll make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

<sup>5</sup> But even as he spoke, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him." <sup>6</sup> The disciples were terrified and fell face down on the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Then Jesus came over and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." <sup>8</sup> And when they looked up, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they went back down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

SERMON "Mountaintop Moments" Pastor Julie

HYMN "Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"

#183 NCH (vs. 1,3,4,5) Jaroslav J. Vajda

**1 Jesus, take us to the mountain  
Where, with Peter, James and John,  
We are dazzled by Your glory,  
Light as blinding as the sun.  
There prepare us for the night  
By the vision of that sight.**

**3 What do You want us to hear there  
That Your dear disciples heard?  
Once again the voice from heaven  
Says of the incarnate Word:  
"Listen, listen ev'ryone;  
This is My beloved One!"**

**4 Take us to that other mountain  
Where we see You glorified.  
Where You shouted, "It is finished!"  
Where for all the world You died.  
Hear the stunned centurion:  
"This was God's beloved One!"**

5 We who have beheld Your glory,  
Risen and ascended Christ,  
Cannot help but tell the story,  
All that you have sacrificed,  
Say with Peter, James, and John:  
"You are God's beloved One!"

2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,  
Shine on me, shine on me. *[Refrain]*

## 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 "Morning Prayer" Tchaikowsky

#### Doxology

Praise God, whose image we all bear;  
Praise Christ, whose mercy we all share;  
Praise Spirit, making justice grow—  
One God from whom all blessings flow!  
Amen.

#### Prayer of Dedication

All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived. Amen.

### HYMN "Shine, Jesus, Shine" Graham Kendrick

1 Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

#### *Refrain*

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your Word,  
Lord, and let there be light.

3 As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
So our faces display your likeness;  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me. *[Refrain]*

## BLESSING

### 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.*

### HYMN "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

#319 W&R (Refrain only)

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your Word,  
Lord, and let there be light.

## 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 in "Praise of Jesus Christ".

## 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, February 15, 2026  
<https://youtube.com/live/kEkDPk9n1s8>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### This Sunday, February 15th

#### **- 9:30 AM Worship**

Deacon – Barb Shoemaker  
Greeters – Karen Northup, Lydia Schumacher  
Ushers – Janet Meredith, Emile Miller  
Power Point – Jenny Erickson  
AV – Lydia Schumacher

***FYI - (for those who are scheduled for PowerPoint/AV it is suggested that you arrive 30 minutes prior to the church service to get the laptop turned on, allow for any updates, get screen down and start running the announcements).***

### Following Sunday, February 22nd

Deacon – Wayne Voss  
Greeters – Chad & Lacey, Kyson Erickson  
Ushers – Marla & Joel Raine  
Power Point – Brynn Heck  
AV – Stephanie Heck

### Tuesday, February 17th

**- 1:00 PM Bible Study**  
**5:30 PM Trustees Meeting**  
**6:45 PM Leadership Council Meeting**

### Wednesday, February 18th

**- 3:30 PM Confirmation class meets at UCC lounge**  
**5:00 PM JAM meets at Calvary**



**5 - 6 PM Soup Supper here at UCC**  
**6:30 PM Ash Wednesday service at UCC**

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

Feb 15 – Mathis'  
Feb 22 – Susie Karl  
Mar 1 – Buddenhagen's  
Mar 8 – Rodman's  
We need people to sign up

## **Volunteers Needed for Sunday Worship**

February 15 – April 5, 2026

We are looking for volunteers to assist with Sunday worship by **reading the scriptures and/or leading the children's message**. Pastor Julie will choose the scripture readings, and volunteers will prepare and lead the children's message. Pastor Julie has online resources available and is happy to discuss ideas or offer guidance.

If you feel called to help, please add your name to the schedule below. For more specifics of questions please contact Sally Sadowska or Janice Miller.

Thank you for serving!

Sunday	Scripture	Children's message
Feb 15	Barb Petkovsek	Barb Petkovsek
Feb. 22	Susie Karl	Barb Shoemaker
Mar. 1	Wayne Voss	Bonnie Weyer
Mar. 8	Barb Shoemaker	
Mar. 15	Byrl Buddenhagen	Barb Shoemaker
Mar. 22	Nancy Rodman	
Mar 29 (Palm)		
April 5 (Easter)		

