

## Resurrection of the Lord

April 5, 2026

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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**PRELUDE** *"In Thee is Gladness"* J.S. Bach  
Karen Mohr

### RINGING OF THE CARILLON

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Easter Morning Reflection

**OPENING HYMN** *"Christ Arose!"* Robert Lowry  
#294 W&R (vs. 3)

**3** Death cannot keep his prey - Jesus my Savior;  
He tore the bars away - Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er his foes ;  
He arose a victor from the dark domain,  
And he lives forever with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!!

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good;  
God's love abides, endures, and prevails forever!

**Many: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us.  
Christ is risen!**

One: In distress, I call. In grief, I cry. In despair, I come.  
The Holy One answers. The Holy One comforts. The  
Holy One comes.

**Many: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us.  
Christ is risen!**

One: God, my refuge and confidence, surrounds me  
with strength and victory! Exalt God's holy name!

**Many: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us.  
Christ is risen!**

### OPENING PRAYER

**Holy One, just as they came to the tomb to honor you  
on that early Easter morning, we gather to praise you  
this day. May our alleluias resound in adoration and  
shared joy that you are risen and we share in the  
promise of new life. May we encounter your glory in  
this assembled community as we follow you from the  
empty tomb into the possibilities that await. Amen.**

**HYMN** *"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"* Charles Wesley  
#233 NCH

**1** Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

**2** Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

**3** Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!  
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

**4** Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

### PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

**HYMN RESPONSE:** *"Halle, Halle, Halle"*

#236 NCH Caribbean melody

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *"Lift High the Cross"*

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### Invitation to Communion (Acts 10)

#### Prayer of Confession (Acts 10)

...For the newness of life, we pray.

**Have mercy on us, Holy One. Amen.**

### Words of Grace (Acts 10:43)

...In the name of the risen Christ, you are forgiven!  
**In the name of the risen Christ, We are forgiven!**  
**Glory to God! Alleluia! Amen.**

### Words of Praise

...And so, on this day of resurrection,  
we raise our voices to proclaim this timeless truth:

**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen!**  
**Christ will come again!**

### Remembering and Giving Thanks

Now, O God, with grateful hearts we remember Jesus.

We remember that he was laid in a borrowed grave.  
**A heavy stone sealed up the tomb.**

We remember that the women came,  
early in the morning, on the third day.  
**They did not find him among the dead.**

We remember that his disciples met him on the road.  
**He opened the Scriptures, explaining everything,**  
**and their hearts burned within them.**

They said to him,  
“Stay with us, for it is evening.”

So he went in with them.  
And while they were at table,  
he took bread, gave thanks,  
and broke it for them to share.  
**Then their eyes were opened,**  
**and they knew him in the breaking of the bread.**

### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

#### 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

### Prayer Of Thanksgiving

**Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus,**  
**for gladness in this bread and cup,**  
**for love that cannot die,**  
**for peace the world cannot give,**  
**for joy in the company of friends,**  
**for the splendors of creation,**  
**and for the mission of justice you have made our**  
**own.**

**Give us the gifts of this holy communion—**  
**oneness of heart, love for neighbors,**  
**forgiveness of enemies,**  
**the will to serve you every day,**  
**and risen life that never ends.**  
**In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**RESPONSE:** “*This is the Day*” Les Garrett  
#84 NCH (vs. 1-2)

**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.**

**2 This is the day, this is the day,**  
**Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;**  
**We will rejoice, we will rejoice**  
**And be glad in it, and be glad in it.**  
**This is the day Jesus rose again,**  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it;**  
**This is the day, this is the day, Jesus rose again!**

**CHILDREN’S TIME** Deb Perkl

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Susie Karl

**OLD TESTAMENT** Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord because he is good,  
because his faithful love lasts forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say it:  
“God’s faithful love lasts forever!”

<sup>14</sup> The Lord was my strength and protection; he was my  
saving help! <sup>15</sup> The sounds of joyful songs and  
deliverance are heard in the tents of the righteous:  
“The Lord’s strong hand is victorious! <sup>16</sup> The Lord’s  
strong hand is ready to strike! The Lord’s strong hand  
is victorious!”

<sup>17</sup> I won't die—no, I will live and declare what the Lord has done. <sup>18</sup> Yes, the Lord definitely disciplined me, but he didn't hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> Open the gates of righteousness for me so I can come in and give thanks to the Lord! <sup>20</sup> This is the Lord's gate; those who are righteous enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> I thank you because you answered me, because you were my saving help. <sup>22</sup> The stone rejected by the builders is now the main foundation stone! <sup>23</sup> This has happened because of the Lord; it is astounding in our sight! <sup>24</sup> This is the day the Lord acted; we will rejoice and celebrate in it!

### **NEW TESTAMENT Matthew 28:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup> Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He isn't here, because he's been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, 'He's been raised from the dead. He's going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' I've given the message to you."

<sup>8</sup> With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."

**SERMON** "All Shook Up!" Pastor Julie

**HYMN** "Yours is the Glory, Resurrected One"

**#253 NCH** Edmund L. Budry

**1 Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!  
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.  
Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away;  
Conquered is the grave in which your body lay.**

***Refrain:***

**Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!  
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.**

**2 See, it is Jesus, Jesus has appeared;  
Do not doubt at all for nothing you will fear.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing;  
Tell us without ceasing: Death has lost its sting.**

***Refrain***

**3 Am I still frightened? One whom I adore,  
Jesus lives again, gives peace forevermore.  
Jesus is my victory, life and strength and Head;  
Jesus is my glory, nothing shall I dread.**

***Refrain***

### **MORNING PRAYERS**

#### **THE OFFERING SERVICE**

##### **Invitation to Generosity**

**Offertory** "Good Christian Friends,  
Rejoice & Sing" Kristina Langlois

**Doxology** *Tune: Old 100th ("Praise God from Whom  
All Blessings Flow")*

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!  
Let all on earth their praises bring!  
For Christ has conquered sin and death  
And given life eternal breath. Amen.**

##### **Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy Love, receive these gifts as seeds given in  
thanksgiving for your generosity. Let us rejoice in  
giving just as the sun dances in its power. Help us to  
nourish these offerings to meet the needs of our  
community and to witness to your goodness. We  
dedicate them to the flourishing of your kingdom.  
Amen.**

**HYMN** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

**#347 NCH** Fred Kaan

**1 Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

***Refrain:***

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**2 Christ is able to make us one,  
at the table he set the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express. [Refrain]**

**3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Emmanuel) everywhere! [Refrain]**

**BLESSING**

*Seen: A Blessing for Easter Sunday by Jan Richardson*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**



Thanks to ALL those who purchased Easter blooming plants to adorn our sanctuary on Easter morning.

You may take them home after worship (plastic bags are available).

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

**This week's radio broadcast is sponsored  
anonymously with the message of  
God's Blessing to All and Happy Easter!**

**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, April 5, 2026  
[https://youtube.com/live/t\\_R8XLgw2Hk](https://youtube.com/live/t_R8XLgw2Hk)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**This Sunday, April 5th, Easter**

**- 9:30 AM Worship**

Deacon – JoAnn Wren  
Greeters – Audrey Vradenburg, Jim Vradenburg  
Ushers – Ben Mathis, Paul Schmidt  
Power Point – Bonnie Weyer  
AV – Emile Miller

***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, April 12th**

Deacon – Wayne Voss  
Greeters – Debbie Holman, Sue Gurney  
Ushers – Hap Eddy, Roger Carl  
Power Point – Barb Petkovsek  
AV – Crispin Hediger

**Monday, April 6th**

**- 9:00 AM - Card Making**

**Tuesday, April 7th**

**-1:00 PM – Bible Study**

**Coffee fellowship after worship -**

Sign up on back bulletin board

Apr 5 – EASTER – no fellowship after worship  
Apr 12 – Rodman's  
Apr 19 – Marla & Joel Raine  
Apr 26 -

We need people to sign up

## Volunteers Needed for Sunday Worship

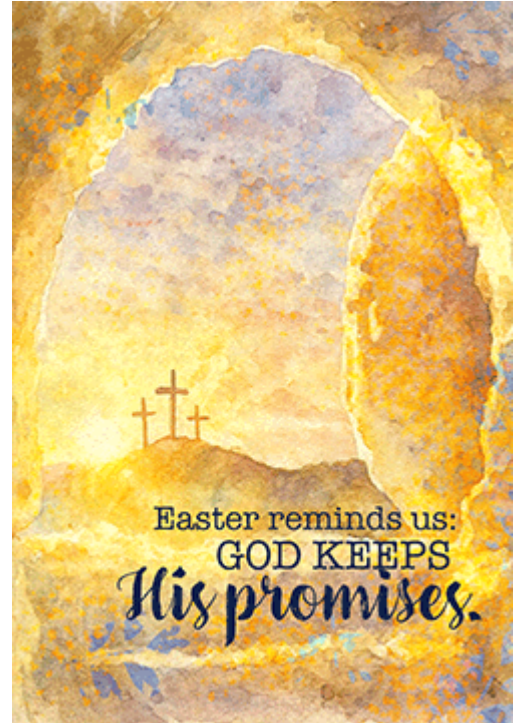
April – May 2026

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
April 5 (Easter)	Susie Karl	Deb Perkl
April 12	Barb Shoemaker	Barb Shoemaker
April 19	Marla Rane	
April 26		
May 3	Nancy Rodman	
May 10	Barb Shoemaker	Barb Shoemaker
May 17		
May 24		
May 31		



### Special UCC Congregational Meeting Sunday April 19th

On Sunday, April 19, 2026, immediately following the regular church service, Neillsville UCC will hold a special congregational meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss—and possibly vote on—a proposal to replace the kitchen countertops.

Additional details, including cost estimates and funding options, will be presented at that time.