

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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**PRELUDE** *"Grieg Medley, ending with "The Old Mother"*

Edward Grieg

Karen Mohr

### RINGING OF THE CARILLON

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 66)

Come and celebrate!

Shout joyfully to the Lord, your God!

Glorify him with your praise!

**Everything on earth will worship you;**

**they will sing your praises,**

**shouting your name in joyful songs.**

Come and see what our God has done,  
what awesome things he has done for us!

**Let the whole world bless our God and sing his  
praise.**

**For our lives are in his hands,**

**and he keeps our feet from stumbling.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God, in Jesus you offer life to the world and  
love to its people. When we see life only for  
ourselves, forgive us. Help us to hear your  
transforming love speaking to us of respect, dignity  
and worth, telling us that we are loved and that we  
are to love one another. In the knowledge of this  
love work through us to bring your justice to the  
world, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**HYMN** *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

**#43 NCH (vs1-2, 4)** Charles Wesley

**1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven on earth be found,  
Fix in us a humble dwelling,  
All your faithful mercies crown;**

**Jesus, you are all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love impart;  
Visit us with your salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.**

**2 Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast;  
Let us all in you inherit,  
Let us find your promised rest;  
Take away our love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.**

**4 Finish, then, your new creation;  
Pure and spotless may we prove;  
Let us see your great salvation  
Perfectly restored in you;  
Changed from glory into glory  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

As forgiven and blessed children of God, let us share with  
one another signs of peace and love.

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".

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

**#236 NCH** Caribbean melody

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

#### CHILDREN'S TIME

## **MOTHERS' DAY LITURGY**

...We pray for older moms whose children are grown.

**Grant them joy and satisfaction for a job well done.**

We pray for new moms experiencing changes they could not predict.

**Grant them rest and peace as they trust you for the future.**

We pray for pregnant women who will soon be moms.

**Grant them patience and good counsel in the coming months.**

We pray for moms who face the demands of single parenthood.

**Grant them strength and wisdom.**

We pray for moms who enjoy financial abundance.

**Grant them time to share with their families.**

We pray for moms who are raising children with chronic illness, physical or developmental challenges.

**Grant them strength and courage in their advocacy and caregiving.**

We pray for moms who are raising children in poverty or violent situations, war zones and refugee camps.

**Grant them relief and justice.**

We pray for step-moms and women who are called to raise the children of another.

**Grant them patience and understanding and love.**

We pray for moms who are separated from their children.

**Grant them faith and hope.**

We pray for moms in marriages that are in crisis.

**Grant them support and insight.**

We pray for moms who have lost children.

**Grant them comfort in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

We pray for moms who gave up their children for adoption.

**Grant them peace and confidence as they trust in your providence.**

We pray for adoptive and foster mothers.

**Grant them joy and gratitude for the gift you have provided.**

We pray for girls and women who think about being moms.

**Grant them wisdom and discernment.**

We pray for all women who struggle with the inability to have a child of their own.

**Grant them patience and perseverance.**

We pray for all women who have assumed the mother's role in a child's life.

**Grant them joy and the appreciation of others.**

We pray for those who are grieving the loss of their mother.

**Grant them comfort and hope in Christ's resurrection.**

Bless all these women on this special day; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**HYMN** *"God, We Praise You for the Women"*

*Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D*

*Words: Daniel Charles Damon*

**1 God, we praise you for the women  
who have taught us to be strong,  
who have held us, who have raised us  
with a prayer and with a song.  
Sarah laughed to hear the promise—  
God would bless her with a son;  
Sarah laughed and Sarah doubted  
till she saw what God had done.**

**2 Pharaoh's daughter, like a mother,  
lifted Moses from a pool,  
brought him safely to the palace  
where a slave would go to school.**

**Mary watched the killing madness,  
as her son died on the cross;  
she who knew the joy of childbirth,  
now was torn by bitter loss.**

**3 As her life drew on toward evening,  
after she had raised her own,  
Lois held her baby grandson,  
told him of God's love made known.  
God, we praise you for the women  
who have taught us to be strong,  
who have held us, who have raised us  
with a prayer and with a song.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** *Ray Weyer*

**NEW TESTAMENT Acts 17:22-31 (CEB)**

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, "People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. <sup>23</sup> As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown God.' What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in temples made with human hands. <sup>25</sup> Nor is God served by human hands, as though he needed something, since he is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God made the nations so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn't far away from any of us. <sup>28</sup> In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, 'We are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> "Therefore, as God's offspring, we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought. <sup>30</sup> God overlooks ignorance of these things in times past, but now directs everyone everywhere to change their hearts and lives. <sup>31</sup> This is because God has set a day when he intends to judge the world justly by a man he has appointed. God has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

**NEW TESTAMENT John 14:15-21 (CEB)**

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can't receive because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be with you.

<sup>18</sup> "I won't leave you as orphans. I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

**SERMON** "Knowing an Unknown God" *Pastor Julie*

**HYMN** "They'll Know We Are Christians"

#595 W&R Peter Scholtes

**1 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.**

**Refrain:**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
by our love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**2 We will walk with each other;  
we will walk hand in hand.  
We will walk with each other;  
we will walk hand in hand.  
And together we'll spread the news  
that God is in our land. [Refrain]**

**3 We will work with each other;  
we will work side by side.  
We will work with each other;  
we will work side by side.  
And we'll guard each one's dignity  
and save each one's pride. [Refrain]**

4 All praise to the Father,  
from whom all things come.  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.  
[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 "The Last Spring" Grieg

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

Righteous God, receive these gifts we offer from  
our hearts and hands that they and we might be of  
service in your kingdom and for your glory. Amen.

HYMN "Blessed Assurance" Fanny Crosby  
#473 NCH (vs. 1-2)

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

##### Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight!  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

Angels descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [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 "Blessed Assurance"

#473 NCH (vs. 3)

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest;  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

##### Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

#### BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Karen Mohr

#### **RADIO BROADCAST**

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

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored  
by the Circle of Friends Group  
in honor & in memory of ALL mothers.

## 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, May 10, 2026

[https://youtube.com/live/Do\\_NKjShqMk](https://youtube.com/live/Do_NKjShqMk)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### This Sunday, May 10th

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

Deacon – Janice Miller

Greeters – Paul Vine

Ushers – Paul Vine,

Power Point – Bonnie Weyer

AV – Crispin Hediger

***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, May 17th

Deacon – Karlene Wallace

Greeters – Jim & Rosie Repinski

Ushers – Roger Carl, Hap Eddy

Power Point – Brynn Heck

AV – Stephanie Heck

### Tuesday, May 12th

**-1:00 PM – Bible Study**

### Thursday, May 14th

**-1:30 PM - Circle of Friends Meeting**

**Coffee fellowship after worship -**

Sign up on back bulletin board

May 10 - Doris Bakker

May 17 – Petkovsek / Voss

May 24 – Doris Bakker

May 31 -

We need people to sign up

## **Volunteers Needed for Sunday Worship**

May – June 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
May 10	Ray Weyer	Bonnie Weyer
May 17	Barb Shoemaker	Barb Shoemaker
May 24	Wendy Sigurdson	Wendy Sigurdson
May 31		
June 7		
June 14		
June 21		
June 28		



**MEAL  
GIVEAWAY**

**MAY 17, 2026  
9:45-10:00 AM**

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST-NEILLSVILLE  
515 WEST SECOND STREET**