

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 05, 2026

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE

Deon Spangler

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Calling all citizens of heaven: exiled dreamers
and disciples of love,

All: God is close to the outcast and faithful to all.

One: Calling all pilgrims of the Spirit, carried by the
winds of hope,

**All: God is everywhere at all times, compassionate to
all.**

One: Calling all travelers between worlds, who
translate compassion into peace,

**All: God makes neighbors of strangers and kin of the
forgotten.**

One: Come to worship and be renewed for this long
journey.

**All: Strangers in a strange land, we have come to
worship the creator of all.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**God of all nations and all peoples, bless us as we
gather in your name. Open us to vessels in building
your kingdom and spreading the good news of life and
liberty. May we drink from the well of your
abundance. May our cups overflow with your love.
May our hearts burn in your presence. Be with us in
this time and place. Amen.**

HYMN *"Come and Find the Quiet Center"* #477 W&R

Shirley Erena Murray

**1 Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.**

**2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace;
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.**

**3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Gracious One, where do we begin? You call us to
do justice,

All: and we complain that justice is complicated.

One: You ask us to love mercy,

**All: and we counter that a show of strength is
necessary.**

One: You invite us to walk humbly with you,

**All: and we struggle to recognize you in our
neighbors, in the dispossessed, in the poor and
hungry places of our own hearts.**

One: We confess we have failed to summon the
courage and compassion required by your call.

**All: We have treated hospitality as an option, kinship
as a choice, instead of as the center of our life
together.**

One: We have claimed your name, yet rejected your
way.

All: Forgive us, we pray.

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Friends, hear this good news: God's gift is love
that liberates, hope that inspires, grace that
transforms. Each of us alone and all of us together
are forgiven and set free.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

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: *"From All that Dwell Below the Skies"*

#27 NCH Isaac Watts

From all that dwell below the skies

Let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung

Through every land, by every tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion. Sing aloud, Daughter Jerusalem. Look, your king will come to you. He is righteous and victorious. He is humble and riding on an ass, on a colt, the offspring of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem. The bow used in battle will be cut off; he will speak peace to the nations. His rule will stretch from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ Moreover, by the blood of your covenant, I will release your prisoners from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to the stronghold, prisoners of hope. Moreover, declare today that I will return double to you.

GOSPEL Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

¹⁶ "To what will I compare this generation? It is like a child sitting in the marketplaces calling out to others, ¹⁷ 'We played the flute for you and you didn't dance. We sang a funeral song and you didn't mourn.' ¹⁸ For John [the Baptist] came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' ¹⁹ Yet the Human One came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved to be right by her works."

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you've hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have shown them to babies. ²⁶ Indeed, Father, this brings you happiness.

²⁷ "My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows the Son except the Father. And nobody knows

the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. ³⁰ My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light."

SERMON "Prisoners of Hope" Pastor Julie

HYMN "This is My Song" Lloyd Stone

#591 NCH

**1 This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**2 My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
Oh, hear my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.**

MORNING PRAYERS

... Gracious One,

All: in your mercy, hear our 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**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer of Consecration

...We ask God's blessing on these elements and on us and on all those who are in our prayers this morning.

ALL: God of the open hand and the gentle yoke, we await your gift and your service. Send your Spirit of life and love, of power and blessing upon your children in every "house of worship," so that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you. Amen.

Words of Remembering

... By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim together the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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

O Holy One, we have come unto you with our weariness and we have let go of all in our lives that is heavy. We thank you for the rest and strength of this communion so now we can lift up all that is light and gentle, humble and easy, and learn from you how to change the world. Amen

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

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

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth;
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame;
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Giving God, make us a people who not only receive your gifts, but empower us to give in mutual measure so that all needs are met. Bless these gifts and amplify their impact as a witness to your goodness and so all may flourish in your name. Amen.

HYMN "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

#593 NCH James Weldon Johnson

**1 Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.**

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us;

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

Let us march on till victory is won.

**2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died.**

Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet

Come to the place for which our people sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.

We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,

God who has brought us thus far on the way,

God, who by your might, led us into the light,

Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,

Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget you;

Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,

True to our God, true to our native land.

RESPONSIVE BLESSING: Psalm 145:8-14

⁸ "The Lord is merciful and compassionate, very patient, and full of faithful love.

⁹ **The Lord is good to everyone and everything; God's compassion extends to all his handiwork!"**

¹⁰ All that you have made gives thanks to you, Lord; all your faithful ones bless you!

¹¹ **They speak of the glory of your kingdom; they talk all about your power,**

¹² to inform all human beings about God's power and the majestic glory of God's kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is a kingship that lasts forever; your rule endures for all generations.**

The Lord is trustworthy in all that he says, faithful in all that he does.

¹⁴ **The Lord supports all who fall down, straightens up all who are bent low.**

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 "May the God of Hope" Alvin Schutmaat
#196 Hymns of Promise

**1 May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

Chorus:

**Praying, let us work for peace,
Singing, share our joy with all.
Working for a world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

**2 God will be our shepherd as we go our way,
And will not forsake us when we go astray.
Even though the load of life is hard to bear,
We must not forget that God is always there.**

Chorus:

**Praying, let us work for peace,
Singing, share our joy with all.
Working for a world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Deon Spangler

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored by Jerry Quicker
in loving memory of his sons,
Paul and Mike

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, July 5, 2026

<https://youtube.com/live/bOGwpGeaj7A>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, July 5th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Janice Miller

Greeters – Pat Acheson & Herman Seebandt

Ushers – Mike Perkl, Deb Perkl

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, July 12th

Deacon – JoAnn Wren

Greeters – Doris Bakker, Ellie Golembiewski

Ushers – Hap Eddy, Kevin Christensen

Power Point – Brynn or Kalvin Heck

AV – Stephanie Heck

Monday, July 6th

-9:00 PM – Card Making

Tuesday, July 7th

-1:00 PM – Bible Study

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

July 5 – Mathis'

July 12 – Buddenhagen's

July 19 –

July 26-

We need people to sign up

