

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"Sing to the Lord"* with Lani Smith
Deon Spangler

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning God created heaven and earth;
and saw that they were good.
Wisdom was firmly set from everlasting, delighting the
Most High day by day, ever at play in God's presence;
and God saw that She was good.
In the beginning was the Word who was with God, and
who was God;
and God saw that He was good.
God is not far from any of us;
and sees that we are good.
So come and worship the God in whom we live, move,
and have our being,
because God is good. Amen!

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Before the ages, God our Creator,
You made all that is, seen and unseen,
through Christ who danced and played at Creation's
dawn.
We worship and adore You!

Christ delighted in Your presence as You firmly fixed
the heavens, and drew a circle on the surface of the
deep, thickening the clouds above and assigned the
sea's boundaries. In You we live, move, and have our
being;
We worship and adore You!

You, Most Holy Spirit, do not live in our shrines or
buildings, but give life and breath to everything and
everyone. You move within us, urging us to seek and
find you, calling us back when we wander away.
We worship and adore You!

As we come to you, Eternal Trinity, in worship, we are
conscious of the times when we have abused the work
of Your hands, turned away from our responsibilities,
despoiled Creation, denied dignity to ourselves and
others, and rejected Your wisdom.

**Forgive us, O God, and give us time to change, before
it's too late! Amen**

WORDS OF GRACE

HYMN *"Creator God We Sing"*

#39 NCH Carlos Rosas

**1 Creator God, we sing,
a hymn of joy we're making,
Our grateful love we bring,
as the new day's light is breaking.
God made the sea and land;
the sun and stars came rolling
from God's own loving hand,
their Creator's love extolling.**

Refrain:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Creator God, we sing: Alleluia!

**2 Creator God, we sing,
Your power and wisdom blessing,
Our hope and wonder bring,
admiration now expressing.
The universe maintains
that God in might is dwelling;
And we, in humble strains,
of God's beauty here are telling. [Refrain]**

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".*

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Note: All scriptures are reprinted from **First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs - created "to provide an English Bible that connects, in a culturally relevant way, to the traditional heart languages of the over six million English-speaking First Nations people of Turtle Island [North America]"*

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 1 paraphrase

Long ago, in the time before all days, before the beginning of all things, the Great Spirit created the spirit-world above and the earth below. At that time our mother earth was an empty wasteland with no form or beauty, and great darkness was over the face of the ancient deep waters. The Breath of the Great Spirit moved over the surface of the waters like an eagle brooding over her nest. Creator sounded his voice. "Let light be!" he said. And light was! The Great Spirit could see that light was good, so he separated the light from the darkness. Creator gifted the light with the name *day*, and to the darkness he gave the name *night*. Then night faded and morning came. The first day.

In six days the Great Spirit made all things seen and unseen. He made the spirit-world above and the earth below. He created spirits to be his messengers and helpers. He also made the sun, moon and stars, and all plants and animals. He made the great waters and all who swim in them. The winged ones who fly in the sky, the four-legged ones who walk on the ground, every creeping thing that crawls - all were shaped and molded by his hands.

On the sixth day, Creator made the first man and woman and placed them in the Garden of Beauty and Harmony to be caretakers of the earth.

On the seventh day, the Great Spirit rested from his work of creation, not because he was tired but because he was finished. The Great Spirit blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. So humankind was created to enter into his day of rest and remain in harmony with Creator and care for all of creation.

OLD TESTAMENT Proverbs 8:22-31

²² Grandfather brought me forth at the beginning of his work of creation, long before he made all things. ²³ From before all days, he set me in the place of honor, during the first days of Mother Earth.

²⁴ I was born before the oceans were filled, before the springs of water burst from the ground. ²⁵ My birth took place before the mountains were set in place and before the hills were formed.

²⁶ I was there before Creator made the prairies and the plains, even before the first clumps of clay were formed. ²⁷ I was with him when he set the world above in place. I was his companion when he carved a circle on the face of the ancient deep waters.

²⁸ Yes, I, Grandmother Wisdom, was there when he placed the clouds in the sky and made the underground rivers flow. ²⁹ I was with him when he told the oceans how far they could go, so they would go no farther than what he said. I was there as he set in place the strong turtle that holds up the land.

³⁰ I was the wise builder at his side making his heart glad each day, dancing with joy before him. ³¹ I danced for joy in this world he was creating, as I delighted in the human beings he placed there.

GOSPEL John 1:1-5

¹⁻² Long ago, in the time before all days before the creation of all things, the one who is known as the Word was there face to face with the Great Spirit. This Word fully represents Creator and shows us who he is and what he is like. He has always been there from the beginning, for the Word and Creator are one and the same. ³ Through the Word all things came into being, and not one thing exists that he did not create. ⁴ Creator's life shined out from the Word, giving light to all human beings. This is the true Light that comes to all the peoples of the world and shines on everyone. ⁵ The Light shines into the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it or put it out.

SERMON "Creator, Word and Wisdom" Pastor Julie

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 *"Sweet is the Work"* John McClellan

Doxology *"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

All things come from you, God Most High, and of your own blessings we give back to you. Multiply our gifts that they may be a blessing to the church, the community and the world. Help us to use all your great gifts with skill and responsibility, that we may be reconciled with you and all Creation. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Hymn of Invitation:

#3 NCH Adapt. Joseph R. Renville

1 Many and great, O God, are your works,
Maker of earth and sky;
Your hands have set the heavens with stars;
Your fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at thy word the waters were formed;
Deep seas obey your voice.

2 Grant unto us communion with you,
O star-abiding One;
Come unto us and dwell with us;
With you are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end,
Eternal life with you.

Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...And so, with angels and archangels, with the whole company of heaven, and with all your Creation here below we sing to your glory:

Hymn: *"Great Spirit God"*

#341 NCH vs. 1 Native American melody (Dakota)

Adapt. Joseph R. Renville

1 Great Spirit God, the things which are yours
Are numerous and great.
The heavens above you set in their place,
And earth received its form by your hands.
The ocean depths respond to your will,
For you can do all things.

Prayer of Consecration

...May our sharing of this bread and wine transform us, that we, and the whole created order, may find reconciliation and unity in Christ. For, through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all glory and honor is yours, God Most High, with the Holy Spirit forever and ever, Amen.

Hymn: *"Great Spirit God"*

#341 NCH vs. 5 Native American melody (Dakota)

Adapt. Joseph R. Renville

5 Your sacrament entrusted to us,
Jesus now share with me.
Your bread of life and drink for our souls,
Which you have offered, purify now.
Sanctify minds and bodies to you;
Restore us by your love.

Breaking Bread And Pouring Wine

Sharing The Elements

*All are welcome to partake in the Feast of our Lord.
This table is open to all.*

Prayer Of Thanksgiving

You, O God, looked at Creation and declared it good;
You, O God, looked at humanity and declared it good;
You, O God, feed us at this table, that our lives and loves may be good. Send us out to serve the Common Good, that justice will flow and Creation be made whole. Amen.

HYMN *"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

#28 NCH (vs. 1-3) Folliott S. Pierpont

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the splendor of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.

Refrain:

God of all, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light, *[Refrain]*

3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, *[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 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

#28 NCH (vs. 4) Miriam Therese Winter

4 For the good that love inspires,
For a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires,
And for every heart renewed.
God of all, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored anonymously
by a "faithful listener".



Have a safe &
enjoyable
Labor Day Weekend!

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, September 6, 2026
<https://youtube.com/live/nOSrhEmJys8>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, September 6th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Wayne Voss

Greeters – Lydia Schumacher, Karen Northup

Ushers – Phil & Donita Follen

Power Point – Jenny Erickson

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, September 13th

Deacon – Byrl Buddenhagen

Greeters – Sandy Bieneck & Michelle Bergemann

Ushers – Craig Heck, Bob Petkovsek

Power Point – Brynn or Calvin Heck

AV – Stephanie Heck

Tuesday, September 8th

- 1:00 PM – Bible Study

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Sept 6 – Carole Romens

Sept 13 –

Sept 20 – at Calvary

Sept 27 –

Oct 4 -

We need people to sign up