

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE

Holly Pisors

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 96:1-9)

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord! Bless his name!

Share the news of his saving work every single day!

Declare God's glory among the nations;

Declare his wondrous works among all people

The Lord is great and so worthy of praise.

He is awesome beyond all other gods

Greatness and grandeur are in front of him;

strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Give to the Lord glory and power!

Give to the Lord the glory due his name!

Bring gifts! Enter his courtyards!

Bow down to the Lord in his holy splendor!

Tremble before him, all the earth!

Let us gather to worship our awesome God!

GATHERING PRAYER

God of diversity and union, we call upon you this day
to open our hearts to your love, our ears to your
words, our eyes to see the needs of those both near
and far, and our spirits to do your will. Be with us and
give us courage and inspiration for the future of your
world, Holy One. Amen.

HYMN "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" #87 W&R

1 Come, Christians, join to sing:

Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King,

Alleluia! Amen!

Let all with heart and voice,

Before his throne rejoice;

Praise is his gracious choice:

Alleluia! Amen!

2 Come, lift your hearts on high,

Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky;

Alleluia! Amen!

Christ is our Guide and Friend;

To us he'll condescend;

His love shall never end;

Alleluia! Amen!

3 Praise yet our Christ again,

Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain;

Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore

His goodness we'll adore,

Singing forevermore,

Alleluia! Amen!

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

God of infinite forgiveness, we implore you this day
to forgive those many times in which we have turned
our backs on you by turning away from the needs of
the voiceless, the hopeless, the helpless. We let
ourselves get distracted by schedules and activities
which drain us of energy and enthusiasm. Light a fire
under us, O God, that we may again feel the exciting
challenge of being your people. Heal our wounds of
indifference and apathy; bring us together in
harmony and joy to serve you and your creation with
peace, justice, and hope. It is in the name of your Son
Jesus Christ, that we offer this prayer. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

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".

HYMN: *"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"* Louise Respini

#73 NCH vs. 1

**5 Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day;
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

CHILDREN'S TIME Bonnie Weyer

SCRIPTURE READINGS Kelley Burch

OLD TESTAMENT Exodus 33:12-23

¹² Moses said to the LORD, "Look, you've been telling me, 'Lead these people forward.' But you haven't told me whom you will send with me. Yet you've assured me, 'I know you by name and think highly of you.' ¹³ Now if you do think highly of me, show me your ways so that I may know you and so that you may really approve of me. Remember too that this nation is your people."

¹⁴ The LORD replied, "I'll go myself, and I'll help you."

¹⁵ Moses replied, "If you won't go yourself, don't make us leave here. ¹⁶ Because how will anyone know that we have your special approval, both I and your people, unless you go with us? Only that distinguishes us, me and your people, from every other people on the earth."

¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "I'll do exactly what you've asked because you have my special approval, and I know you by name."

¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glorious presence."

¹⁹ The LORD said, "I'll make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I'll proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD.' I will be kind to whomever I wish to be kind, and I will have compassion to whomever I wish to be compassionate. ²⁰ But," the LORD said, "you can't see my face because no one can see me and live." ²¹ The LORD said, "Here is a place near me where you will stand beside the rock. ²² As my glorious presence passes by, I'll set you in a gap in the rock, and I'll cover you with my hand until I've passed by. ²³ Then I'll take away my hand, and you will see my back, but my face won't be visible."

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees met together to find a way to trap Jesus in his words. ¹⁶ They sent their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to him. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are genuine and that you teach God's way as it really is. We know that you are not swayed by people's opinions, because you don't show favoritism. ¹⁷ So tell us what you think: Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

¹⁸ Knowing their evil motives, Jesus replied, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used to pay the tax." And they brought him a denarion. ²⁰ "Whose image and inscription is this?" he asked.

²¹ "Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." ²² When they heard this they were astonished, and they departed.

SERMON *"Whose Image?"* Pastor Julie

HYMN *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"*

#565 NCH (vs. 1-3) Robert L. Edwards

**1 God, whose giving knows no ending,
From your rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you,
Offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.**

**2 Skills and time are ours for serving,
That your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants
Fit to answer at your throne.**

**3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
Gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the gospel Word.**

Open wide our hands in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Honoring you by loving all.

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

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

Doxology *"We Give You But Your Own"*

#785 NCH Wm. W. How

We give you but your own,
What-e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone,
We give it gratefully. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, receive our offerings as acceptance
to your invitation to the kingdom life. May they be
used to spread abundance, generate hope, and
meet needs. Bless us as we give to grow in
generosity, gratitude, and grace. We give thanks for
this opportunity to participate in your kingdom come
and your will be done in our communities and
world. Amen.

HYMN *"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

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

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]*

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.

Refrain:

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 by Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen in
celebration of their 63rd wedding anniversary.

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, October 18, 2026
<https://youtube.com/live/PVSt3IOIzCA>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, October 18th

- 9:30 AM Worship

- Following worship – Congregational meeting will be held to discuss HVAC proposal

Deacon – JoAnn Wren

Greeters – Doris Bakker, Ellie Golembiewski

Ushers – Kevin Christiansen, Larry Marshall

Power Point – Brynn or Calvin Heck

AV – Stephanie Heck

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, October 25th

Deacon – Wayne Voss

Greeters – Paul Vine, Kelley Burch

Ushers – Ken Shoemaker, Russ Karl

Power Point – Janice Miller

AV – Crispin Hediger

Monday, October 19th

- 9:00 AM Making Cards

Tuesday, October 20th

- 1:00 PM Bible Study

- 5:30 PM Trustees Meeting

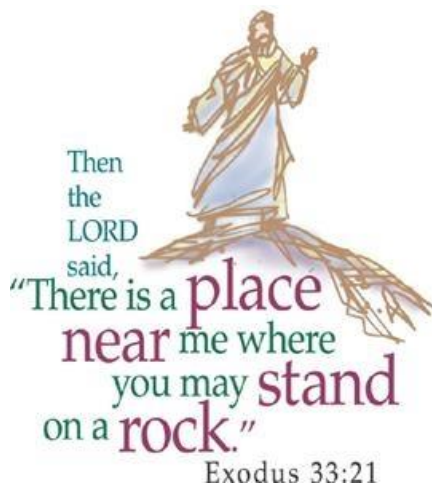
Sunday, October 25th

"Thank You Sunday"

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Oct 18 - Circle of Friends
Oct 25 - Stewardship Comm.
Nov 1 -
Nov 8 -
Nov 15 -



Volunteers Needed for Sunday Worship

October – November 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
Oct 4	Karen Mohr	Pastor Julie
Oct 11	Barb Shoemaker	Barb Shoemaker
Oct 18	Kelley Burch	Bonnie Weyer
Oct 25		JoAnn Voss
Nov 1		
Nov 8	Barb Shoemaker	Barb Shoemaker
Nov 15		
Nov 22		
Nov 29		

