

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"Bread of the World"* Gilbert Martin
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Japan)

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict,
God is inviting us, to make us one.

**Many: Today we gather around one table, in answer
to God's will.**

One: What do we find at today's table?

**Many: God's love, which endures all things and
connects all things.**

One: What is not at today's table?

**Many: The many powers of the world, which seek to
stand over others.**

One: Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to
bring salvation to all who believe.

**Many: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your
love.**

**All: Let us worship together the true God, who makes
us one.**

GATHERING PRAYER (Australia)

HYMN *"Gather Us In" #649 W&R vs 1-3*

**1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
Shadows of doubt are vanished away.**

**See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.**

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;

Gather us in, our spirits inflame.

Call to us now and we shall awaken;

We shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a mystery;

We are the old, who yearn for your face.

**We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human race.**

**Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly;
Give us the courage to enter the song.**

**3 Here we receive the wine and the water;
Here we receive the bread of new birth;
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth
Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Presentation of Elements

Invitation to the Table

Prayer Of Confession (South Africa)

One: For our failure to feel the sufferings of others,
and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

Many: God forgive us.

One: For the self-righteousness which denies guilt, and
the self-interest which strangles compassion,

Many: God forgive us.

One: For those who live their lives in careless
unconcern, who cry 'Peace, peace' when there is no
peace,

Many: We ask your mercy.

One: For our failings in community, our lack of
understanding,

Many: We ask your mercy.

One: For the times when we are too eager to be better
than others, when we are too rushed to care, when
we are too tired to bother, when we don't really
listen, when we are too quick to act from motives
other than love, **All: God forgive us.**

Words Of Grace (Bangladesh)

Passing Of The Peace

One: The Peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Let us share peace and forgiveness with one another
that we may feast in unity today.

Hymn: *"One Bread, One Body" #689 W&R Refrain*

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.**

Prayers for the World

One: We pray for the people of Africa.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of Asia.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of the Pacific.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of Europe

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of the Middle East.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of North America.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of our community, our congregation, every place whose names we know — and those we do not.

All: May we be strengthened together as one body of Christ.

One: We ask for guidance and wisdom for our leaders, comfort for those who are grieving, healing for the hurting and sick, courage for the fearful and downtrodden, strength for each of us to be the hands and feet of Christ, as we seek to love and live as he lived. Hear us now as we pray in community:

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**

Children's Time

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 19

¹Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.

²One day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known.

³Of course, there's no speech, no words— their voices can't be heard—

⁴but their sound extends throughout the world; their words reach the ends of the earth. God has made a tent in heaven for the sun.

⁵The sun is like a groom coming out of his honeymoon suite; like a warrior, it thrills at running its course.

⁶It rises in one end of the sky; its circuit is complete at the other. Nothing escapes its heat.

⁷The LORD's Instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being. The LORD's laws are faithful, making naive people wise.

⁸The LORD's regulations are right, gladdening the heart. The LORD's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes.

⁹Honoring the LORD is correct, lasting forever. The LORD's judgments are true. All of these are righteous!

¹⁰They are more desirable than gold— than tons of pure gold! They are sweeter than honey— even dripping off the honeycomb!

¹¹No doubt about it: your servant is enlightened by them; there is great reward in keeping them.

¹²But can anyone know what they've accidentally done wrong? Clear me of any unknown sin

¹³and save your servant from willful sins. Don't let them rule me. Then I'll be completely blameless; I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you,
LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Words of Institution

Sharing Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God of every nation and generation, gather us into the great company of your people— those who have gone before us, those who worship beside us, and those we may never meet in this life. Until the day when every people and every nation are gathered

into your eternal feast, keep us faithful to one another and to you.

Many: Send us from this table as people of Christ's peace.

ALL: One body. One Spirit. One Lord. One faith. One hope. One table. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower. Then he rented it to tenant farmers and took a trip. ³⁴ When it was time for harvest, he sent his servants to the tenant farmers to collect his fruit. ³⁵ But the tenant farmers grabbed his servants. They beat some of them, and some of them they killed. Some of them they stoned to death.

³⁶ "Again he sent other servants, more than the first group. They treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.

³⁸ "But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come on, let's kill him and we'll have his inheritance.' ³⁹ They grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

⁴⁰ "When the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?"

⁴¹ They said, "He will totally destroy those wicked farmers and rent the vineyard to other tenant farmers who will give him the fruit when it's ready."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Haven't you ever read in the scriptures, *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. The Lord has done this, and it's amazing in our eyes?*^[a] ⁴³ Therefore, I tell you that God's kingdom will be taken away from you and will be given to a people who produce its fruit. ⁴⁴ Whoever falls on this stone will be crushed. And the stone will crush the person it falls on."

⁴⁵ Now when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard the parable, they knew Jesus was talking about them. ⁴⁶ They were trying to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, who thought he was a prophet.

SERMON "Are We Worthy Caretakers?" Pastor Julie

HYMN "O For a World" Miriam Therese Winter
#575 NCH (vs. 1-4)

**1 O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.**

**2 O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.**

**3 We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.**

**4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.**

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory "Break the Bread of Life" Wm. Sherwin

Doxology "Take My Gifts" #562 NCH (vs. 1)

**Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter,
Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising,
Loaves of love to multiply!**

Prayer of Dedication

**God who Provides, as we present our offerings
before you, sanctify them for your glory and
magnify them for your people. Amen.**

HYMN "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"
#347 NCH (vs. 1-2) 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 his table he set the tone,
Teaching people to live to bless,
Love in word and in deed express. [Refrain]

BLESSING

*Contemporary Rephrasing
of Psalm 19 by Maren Tirabassi*

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 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

#347 NCH vs 3 Fred Kaan

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Teaching people to live to bless,
Love in word and in deed express.
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!

BENEDICTION (Cuba)

POSTLUDE

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored by Jim & Rosie Repinski in
celebration of their 40th 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 4, 2026

<https://youtube.com/live/2tvVKI2cYZQ>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, October 4th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Karlene Wallace
Greeters – Audrey Vradenburg & Jim Vradenburg
Ushers – Mickey Marty & Joel Raine
Power Point – Paul Vine
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, October 11th

Deacon – Janice Miller
Greeters – Pat Acheson, Herman Seebandt
Ushers – Neil Armitage, Craig Sigurdson
Power Point – Janice Miller
AV – Bonnie Weyer

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Oct 4 – Sharon Buddenhagen
Oct 11
Oct 18
Oct 25 - Circle of Friends