Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"Assurance"* John Ness Beck
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalms 123 and 90)
Lift up our spirits to the God enthroned in the heavens!
The Holy One is our dwelling place from generation to generation.
Lift up our hearts to the God who shapes us and guides us.
The Holy One is God, forming the earth, the world, and the universe.
Lift up our worship before the Holy One who is God.
The Holy One teaches us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Praise God!

INVOCATION
Present God, we worship you and honor your name. Open our hearts with thanksgiving, awe, and possibility. Make your word be written on our hearts and your purpose ignite a fire within our souls. As we gather as a community, may our faith be renewed, our trust strengthened, and our courage increased. Be glorified in our midst, O God. Amen.

HYMN *"O God our Help in Ages Past"*
#25 NCH (vs. 1-4) Isaac Watts

1 Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood
Or Earth received her frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in your sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE
Righteous God, too often, we seek positions of privilege and power for our own benefit. We accept the ways of the world in order to receive validation, acceptance, and temporary satisfaction. Transform our hearts and our ways to reflect your kindom. Grant us courage to live as you demonstrate and empower us for your glory and honor. 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".*

RESPONSE: *"We are Marching in the Light of God"*
#526 NCH SIYAHAMBA

We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God (light of God).

We are marching (marching, we are marching)
Ooo, We are marching in the light of God (light of God).
We are marching (marching, we are marching)
Ooo, We are marching in the light of God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS
OLD TESTAMENT Judges 4:1-7
1 After Ehud had died, the Israelites again did things
that the LORD saw as evil. 2 So the LORD gave them over
to King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The
commander of his army was Sisera, and he was

stationed in Harosheth-ha-goiim. **3** The Israelites cried out to the LORD because Sisera had nine hundred iron chariots and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

4 Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was a leader of Israel at that time. **5** She would sit under Deborah's palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the Ephraim highlands, and the Israelites would come to her to settle disputes. **6** She sent word to Barak, Abinoam's son, from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "Hasn't the LORD, Israel's God, issued you a command? 'Go and assemble at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand men from the people of Naphtali and Zebulun with you. **7** I'll lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, to assemble with his chariots and troops against you at the Kishon River, and then I'll help you overpower him.'"

NEW TESTAMENT 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 We don't need to write to you about the timing and dates, brothers and sisters. **2** You know very well that the day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. **3** When they are saying, "There is peace and security," at that time sudden destruction will attack them, like labor pains start with a pregnant woman, and they definitely won't escape. **4** But you aren't in darkness, brothers and sisters, so the day won't catch you by surprise like a thief. **5** All of you are children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to night or darkness. **6** So then, let's not sleep like the others, but let's stay awake and stay sober. **7** People who sleep at night, and people who get drunk get drunk at night. **8** Since we belong to the day, let's stay sober, wearing faithfulness and love as a piece of armor that protects our body and the hope of salvation as a helmet. **9** God didn't intend for us to suffer his wrath but rather to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. **10** Jesus died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with him. **11** So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.

NEW TESTAMENT -GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

14 "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. 15 To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant's ability. Then he left on his journey.

16 "After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. 17 In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. 18 But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

19 "Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, 'Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I've gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

22 "The second servant also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I've gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

24 "Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven't sown. You gather crops where you haven't spread seed. 25 So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what's yours.'

26 "His master replied, 'You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven't sown and that I gather crops where I haven't spread seed? 27 In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. 28 Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. 29 Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don't have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. 30 Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.'

SERMON "Taking Risks" 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,
Off'ring 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 pow'rs 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.

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 *"Praise and Thanksgiving"* Dale Wood
Doxology *"Praise God, the Source"*
*Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen ("From All that Dwell Below the Skies" **#27 NCH**)*

Praise God, the Source who makes us one,
Praise Jesus Christ, beloved Son.
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Our gifts we give as we've been led,
all bodies, minds, and spirits fed.
Help us show love,
Here as above,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, please receive these gifts from the position of love to elevate the position of our neighbor, our witness, and our faith community. Magnify them and bless us as we give. Amen.

HYMN *"Lead Us From Death to Life"*
#581 NCH Marty Haugen

Refrain:
Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
let peace fill our universe.

1 Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
Still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
Come and teach us your way of compassion.
(Refrain)

2 So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,
Longing for love to break into their anguish.
Come, teach us love; come, teach us peace,
Come and teach us your way of compassion.
(Refrain)

3 Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,
Let us begin to grow into your people.
We can be love, we can bring peace,
We can still be your way of compassion.
(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.

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Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
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COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

Liturgy adapted from ***Position Yourself****:* ***Service Prayers for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Year A*** *written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.*

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

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by Emile & Dan Miller in celebration of their 45th wedding annniversary.

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, November 15, 2026
https://youtube.com/live/1aTzrcNGVbE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, November 15th
- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Janice Miller
Greeters – Howie & Kathy Mathis
Ushers – Craig Heck, Kalvin Heck
Power Point – Brynn or Kalvin 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, November 22nd
Deacon – Karlene Wallace
Greeters – Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen
Ushers – Don Quicker,
Power Point – Janice Miller
AV – Lydia Schumacher

MEETINGS

Monday, Nov. 16 – 9AM Circle of Friends -making cards
Tuesday, Nov. 17 – 5:30 PM Trustees
Wednesday, Nov. 18 –
5-5:45PM Christmas Program Practice
6PM Council meets at Julie's

Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up on back bulletin board

Nov 15 - Doris Bakker, Kathy Mathis
Nov 22 – Nancy & Kirk Rodman
Nov 29 -
Dec 6 –

Annual Budget and Committee Congregational Meeting

On **Sunday, December 13th, 2026** the Neillsville United Church of Christ will hold the 2027 Budget and Committee congregational meeting. This meeting will be held at approximately 10:30AM, in the sanctuary immediately following the regular worship service.

At this meeting the congregation members present will review and vote on the proposed 2027 budget as well as the committee representatives. All are invited to attend.