Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
November 22, 2026
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"Now Thank We All Our God"*
Sigfried Karg-Elert Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 95)
O come, let us sing to the Holy One with joy!
The Sovereign One is the rock of our salvation, restoration, and hope!
O come, let us praise the Holy One with thanksgiving!
The depths and the heights belong to our Maker.
O come, let us worship the Holy One who is great!
The Holy One is our God, and we are the flock of God's realm.

INVOCATION
Holy One, you reign in all creation, in our gatherings, and in our hearts. Be glorified in our worship. Dwell within the praise of your people. Make yourself and your way known so that we might be encouraged, challenged, and empowered to be faithful, just, and righteous in your name. Amen.

HYMN *"We Gather Together"*
#421 NCH Netherlands folk hymn, 16th century
Trans. Theodore Baker, 1894 Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992
1 We gather together to ask for God's blessing;
To live in community, seeking God's will.
We come now as sisters and brothers confessing
The sins that divide and the wrong in us still.

2 Beside us forgiving, Enabling, sustaining,
You call us, O Savior to life that is new.
You draw us away from self-centered complaining
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.

3 All praise to the Spirit, Provider, defender.
You offer us freedom to follow or stray,
Empowering all by the hope you engender,
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.

WORDS OF GRACE

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING
by Greg Goebel, posted at AnglicanPastor.com.
Let us give thanks to God our Father
for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation,
in earth and sky and sea.
We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,
revealing the image of Christ,
We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink,
our homes and families, and our friends,
We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love,
and hands to serve,
We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work,
and leisure to rest and play,
We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous,
who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,
We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints,
in all times and places,
We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks
for the great mercies and promises
given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

To him be praise and glory, with you, O God,
and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. 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: *"Let All Things Now Living" #22 W&R vs. 1*
Katherine K. Davis

1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who guides us on to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us--
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night--
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS Susie Karl
OLD TESTAMENT Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
11 The Lord God proclaims: I myself will search for my
flock and seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out
the flock when some in the flock have been scattered,
so will I seek out my flock. I will rescue them from all
the places where they were scattered during the time
of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will gather and lead
them out from the countries and peoples, and I will
bring them to their own fertile land. I will feed them
on Israel's highlands, along the riverbeds, and in all
the inhabited places. 14 I will feed them in good
pasture, and their sheepfold will be there, on Israel's
lofty highlands. On Israel's highlands, they will lie
down in a secure fold and feed on green pastures. 15 I
myself will feed my flock and make them lie down.
This is what the Lord God says. 16 I will seek out the
lost, bring back the strays, bind up the wounded, and
strengthen the weak. But the fat and the strong I will
destroy, because I will tend my sheep with justice.

20 So the Lord God proclaims to them: I will judge
between the fat and the lean sheep. 21 You shove with
shoulder and flank, and with your horns you ram all
the weak sheep until you've scattered them outside. 22
But I will rescue my flock so that they will never again
be prey. I will even judge between the sheep! 23 I will
appoint for them a single shepherd, and he will feed
them. My servant David will feed them. He will be
their shepherd. 24 I, the Lord, will be their God, and my
servant David will be their prince. I, the Lord, have
spoken.

NEW TESTAMENT Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46
31 "Now when the Human One comes in his majesty
and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his
majestic throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered in
front of him. He will separate them from each other,
just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
33 He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats
he will put on his left.
34 "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come,
you who will receive good things from my Father.
Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before
the world began. 35 I was hungry and you gave me
food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I
was a stranger and you welcomed me. 36 I was naked
and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you
took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'
37 "Then those who are righteous will reply to him,
'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or
thirsty and give you a drink? 38 When did we see you
as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you
clothes to wear? 39 When did we see you sick or in
prison and visit you?'
40 "Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that
when you have done it for one of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'
41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Get away from
me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the
unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and
his angels. 42 I was hungry and you didn't give me food
to eat. I was thirsty and you didn't give me anything to
drink. 43 I was a stranger and you didn't welcome me. I
was naked and you didn't give me clothes to wear. I
was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'
44 "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we see you
hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in
prison and didn't do anything to help you?' 45 Then he
will answer, 'I assure you that when you haven't done
it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for
me.' 46 And they will go away into eternal punishment.
But the righteous ones will go into eternal life."

SERMON "Sorted and Separated" Pastor Julie

HYMN *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"*
#565 NCH 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 pressing
Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:
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,
Serving 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 *"We Praise You, O God"* 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, may these gifts be magnified for your kindom. We trust that your realm has everything needed. May we share our time, talent, and treasure in a spirit of gratitude, joy, and hope as tangible acts of our faith and belonging. Grant us wisdom and discernment to be good stewards of the resources entrusted into our care for the ministry of the good news. Amen.

HYMN *"Now Thank We All Our God"*
#419 NCH Martin Rinkart

1 Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our parents' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

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 *"Now Thank We All Our God"*
#419 NCH vs 3

3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
Our help in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Liturgy adapted from ***Sorted and Separated: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday 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 Paul Vine & Kelley Burch in memory of Gordon & Faith Vine.

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Nov 22 – Nancy & Kirk Rodman
Nov 29 - M.E. & Jim Sjolin
Dec 6 –
Dec 13 -
Dec 20 -
Dec 27 –

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 22, 2026
https://youtube.com/live/pAKo8OmDadM

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, November 22nd

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Karlene Wallace
Greeters – Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen
Ushers – Don Quicker, Ken Shoemaker
Power Point – Janice Miller
AV – Lydia Schumacher

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).



We encourage you to stay after worship service on Sunday, November 22nd to help with decorating the church for Advent Season.

Following Sunday, November 29th

Deacon – Sally Sadowska
Greeters – Lydia Schumacher & Karen Northup
Ushers – Jerry Hamm, Ray Weyer
Power Point – Jennfer Erickson
AV – Crispin Hediger

