Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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 78)
One: Set your hope in God, who is worthy of our trust.
Many: We remember the glorious deeds of the Holy One.
One: Set your hope in God, who orders our days and redeems our lives.
Many: We rejoice in the wonders the Holy One has done.
One: Set your hope in God, who leads us.
Many: We recommit to the ways of the Holy One. Our hope is in God!

OPENING PRAYER
Holy One, we come before you with praise and thanksgiving. We invite you to inhabit our praise as we honor your precious name. Bind us together and refresh us as a community with justice and righteousness overflowing like a stream. Open our minds and hearts to be receptive to your still speaking voice. Make yourself known among us. You are our God, and we are your people. Amen.

HYMN *"Bring Many Names"*
#11 NCH (vs. 1-4*)* Brian Wren

1 Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

2 Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!

3 Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!

4 Old, aching God, gray with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE
Wise and just God, we do not want to come before you with empty words and meaningless acts. We know that your love has the power to transform us with compassion. We declare that your truth can liberate us and renew us as liberators in the world. In the midst of a world too often guided by the pursuit of power, privilege, and prestige, soften our hearts. Help us reject the othering of our neighbors and your beloved. Help us reflect your goodness and good news through our lives, in word and deed. 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: *"Give Me Oil in My Lamp" (vs. 1,4)*

1 Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
give me oil in my lamp, I pray;
give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
keep me burning till the break of day.

***Refrain*:**
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King!

4 Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
give me love in my heart, I pray;
give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
keep me serving till the break of day. *[Refrain]*

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS Barb Shoemaker

OLD TESTAMENT Amos 5:18-24

18 Doom to those who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light;
19 as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;
or sought refuge in a house,
rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Isn't the day of the Lord darkness, not light;
all dark with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I reject your festivals;
I don't enjoy your joyous assemblies.
22 If you bring me your entirely burned offerings and gifts of food—
I won't be pleased;
I won't even look at your offerings of well-fed animals.
23 Take away the noise of your songs;
I won't listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

NEW TESTAMENT Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about people who have died so that you won't mourn like others who don't have any hope. 14 Since we believe that Jesus died and rose, so we also believe that God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus. 15 What we are saying is a message from the Lord: we who are alive and still around at the Lord's coming definitely won't go ahead of those who have died. 16 This is because the Lord himself will come down from heaven with the signal of a shout by the head angel and a blast on God's trumpet. First, those who are dead in Christ will rise. 17 Then, we who are living and still around will be taken up together with them in the clouds to meet with the Lord in the air. That way we will always be with the Lord. 18 So encourage each other with these words.

NEW TESTAMENT Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but didn't bring oil for them. 4 But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil.

5 "When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. 6 But at midnight there was a cry, 'Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.'

7 "Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. 8 But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.'

9 "But the wise bridesmaids replied, 'No, because if we share with you, there won't be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut.

11 "Later the other bridesmaids came and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us.'

12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

13 "Therefore, keep alert, because you don't know the day or the hour.

SERMON "Are You Ready?" Pastor Julie

HYMN *"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"*
#588 NCH Jane Parker Huber

1 Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
Enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.

2 Let righteousness roll on
as others' cares we heed,
An ever-flowing stream of faith
translated into deed.

3 So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade
this world our whole life through.

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

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Eucharistic Prayer:

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.
Let us give thanks to the God Most High.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Prayer of the People

Spirit of the Living God, we pray that in this communion hour you will fall on our spirits and fill us with the power of new life. We see in this bread the body of Christ come to earth to be for us the food of resurrection. Bread of heaven, feed us with your grace. Fill our cups, Lord, fill them up and make us whole. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

Breaking Bread And Pouring Wine

Sharing The Elements

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

Prayer Of Thanksgiving

Holy God, our loving Creator, we thank you for this meal that brings us closer to you and to your vision of a world of peace. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

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

Loving God, accept our offerings as a testament to our love, faith, and hope. Magnify them for your glory and to meet the needs of the community. Expand our reach and glorify your name through our giving, O God. Amen.

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

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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COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored by JoAnn Wren
in celebration of Veterans Day,
honoring all those who served our nation.

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 8, 2026
https://youtube.com/live/Gc4WYtUupHg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, November 8th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Barb Shoemaker
Greeters – Kirk & Nancy Rodman
Ushers – Jim Sjolin, Ken Shoemaker
Power Point – Barb Petkovsek
AV – Bonnie Weyer

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 15th

Deacon – Janice Miller
Greeters – Howie & Kathy Mathis
Ushers – Craig Heck, Kalvin Heck
Power Point – Brynn or Kalvin Heck
AV – Stephanie Heck

Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up on back bulletin board

Nov 8 – Weyer & Hamm
Nov 15 - Carole Romens, Doris Bakker
Nov 22 -
Nov 29 -

