

**Millburn Congregational—United Church of Christ**  
**19073 W. OLD TOWN COURT. LAKE VILLA, IL 60046 847-356-5237**

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God  
as a spiritually alive church,  
welcoming all and reaching out with love as Christ's disciples.*

**Rev. Miranda Moeller**

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**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost    September 22, 2024    10:00 a.m.**

***Compassion in Action: Sidekicks!***

Announcements

Greeting and Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

No. 613

1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
ye soldiers of the cross;  
lift high his royal banner,  
it must not suffer loss:  
from vict'ry unto vict'ry  
his army shall he lead,  
till every foe is vanquished,  
and Christ is Lord indeed.

2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
the trumpet call obey;  
forth to the mighty conflict,  
in this his glorious day:  
"ye that are brave now serve him,"  
against unnumbered foes;  
let courage rise with danger,  
and strength to strength oppose.

3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
 stand in his strength alone;  
 the arm of flesh will fail you,  
 ye dare not trust your own:  
 put on the gospel armor,  
 and, watching unto pray'r,  
 where duty calls, or danger,  
 be never wanting there.

4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
 the strife will not be long;  
 this day the noise of battle,  
 the next the victor's song:  
 to those who overcometh,  
 a crown of life shall be;  
 they with the King of Glory  
 shall reign eternally.

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Come, let us honor Esther, her courage we applaud.

**Many: When she could live with riches, she dared to serve her God.**

One: She could not rest with privilege and deny her people's fate.

**Many: She chose to live her calling: serve those outside the gate.**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**God, make the words we hear a living word in the core of our being.**

**Help us put our faith in no other power than the power of your saving love.**

**Make us the agents of your love, blocking no one's entrance into the presence of your love and grace. Through Christ, enable us to be at peace with one another and to salt the earth with the power of your peace. Amen.**

**\*Words of Assurance**

God hears the prayer of faith. Be confident as we pray for one another, for God heals us and forgives us.

**Gloria Patri**  
**GLORY BE TO THE FATHER,**  
**AND TO THE SON,**  
**AND TO THE HOLY GHOST;**  
**AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING,**  
**IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE,**  
**WORLD WITHOUT END.**  
**AMEN. AMEN.**

Passing of the Peace

Anthem

You've Got A Friend

arr. By Mac Huff

Young People's Time

### **We Hear God's Word**

Old Testament Reading (The Message)

Esther 2:15-23

<sup>15</sup> When it was Esther's turn to go to the king (Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had adopted her as his daughter), she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch in charge of the harem, had recommended. Esther, just as she was, won the admiration of everyone who saw her.

<sup>16</sup> She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal palace in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of the king's reign.

<sup>17-18</sup> The king fell in love with Esther far more than with any of his other women or any of the other virgins—he was totally smitten by her. He placed a royal crown on her head and made her queen in place of Vashti. Then the king gave a great banquet for all his nobles and officials—"Esther's Banquet." He proclaimed a holiday for all the provinces and handed out gifts with royal generosity.

\* \* \*

<sup>19-20</sup> On one of the occasions when the virgins were being gathered together, Mordecai was sitting at the King's Gate. All this time, Esther had kept her family background and race a secret as Mordecai had ordered; Esther still did what Mordecai told her, just as when she was being raised by him.

<sup>21-23</sup> On this day, with Mordecai sitting at the King's Gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who guarded the entrance, had it in for the king and were making plans to kill King Xerxes. But Mordecai learned of the plot and told Queen Esther, who then told King Xerxes, giving credit to Mordecai. When the thing was investigated and confirmed as true, the two men were hanged on a gallows. This was all written down in a logbook kept for the king's use.

Sermon

"Reluctantly Chosen"

Rev. Miranda Moeller

### **We Respond to God's Word**

\*Hymn

"Here I Am"

No. 452

I I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
 All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
 I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
 Who will bear my light to them? Who shall I send?

Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
 I will hold your people  
 in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
 I have wept for love of them, they turn away.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
 I will speak my word to them.  
 Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?  
 I have heard you calling in the night.  
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
 I will hold your people in my heart.

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
 I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.  
 Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
 I will give my life to them.  
 Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?  
 I have heard you calling in the night.  
 I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
 I will hold your people in my heart.

Prayers of the People  
 Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

***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.***

Call to Offering

## \*Doxology

Old One Hundredth

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW;  
 PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW;  
 PRAISE GOD FOR ALL THAT LOVE HAS DONE;  
 CREATOR, CHRIST, AND SPIRIT ONE.**

## \*Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, we give you thanks for all the gifts we receive from you and pray you receive our gifts for your kindom. May they be a blessing and gift in our extended community and the world. Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

Lord You Have Come to the Lakeshore

No. 342

1. Lord, you have come to the lakeshore  
 looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
 you only asked me to follow humbly.

## Refrain

O Lord, with your eyes you have  
 searched me,  
 and while smiling have spoken my name;  
 now my boat's left on the shoreline  
 behind me;  
 by your side I will seek other seas.

2. You know so well my possessions;  
 my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
 you will find there my nets and labor.

## Refrain

3. You need my hands, full of caring  
 Through my labors to give others rest,  
 And constant love that keeps on loving.

## Refrain

4. You, who have fished other oceans,  
 Ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
 My loving friend, as thus you call me.  
 Refrain

**\*Commission and Blessing**

May you go into the world renewed and refreshed  
 With humble and expectant peace  
 To witness to the love of God  
 The joy of the community of faith  
 And the hope of new life in Christ. Amen.

**\*Congregational Response**

No. 312

**AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.**

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**Today's Liturgy:** Written by Amy B. Hunter at [Ministry Matters™ | Worship Elements: September 26, 2021](#)

**Today's Ushers:** Thank you Ron and Lynette Bratzke for serving as ushers this morning.

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Christopher Lantman 09/23, Robert Reding 9/23, and Larry Roebuck 9/28 .

**CIRCLE OF PRAYER:** We are holding prayer for the following persons (new in italics): All those dealing with mental health crisis; all those struggling with addiction; those impacted by mass shootings and gun violence, those experiencing loss from climate crisis disasters; our LGBTQIA+ youth and children, as they remember they are loved; all caregivers who need support and rest; Ruth Young's cousin David Poczalski dealing with serious health issues; Deb Grandos niece, Susie, as she battles metastatic breast cancer; Doug, a friend of Toot's daughter- in-law, is in stage 4 cancer; prayers for strength and comfort for the Tschannen's, as well as those that will be helping them as they enter a new phase of their journey with Alzheimer'; Tim Chichester for his diabetes struggle; Lorel Chichester for her knee problems, Cindy and Nancy's son, Jacob, as he navigates a mental health crisis; Char's friend, Pam, who was diagnosed with cancer; Georgene's friend, Belinda, as she seeks medical answers; Donna Geary's great nephew, Teddy, a one

year-old recently diagnosed with cancer; Ruth Young's nephew, John Young, after receiving a heart pump but may need another; Ruth's daughter-in-law, Roberta, whose stomach tumor removal surgery went well; Lisa Horist's Aunt Joy Ann, who is settling in to her new home; *and Donna Geiger's niece, Fay Anne, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.*

### **Church Office Hours:**

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 8:30-2:00

Wednesday: 8:30-2:00

Thursday: 8:30-2:00

Friday: Closed

\*If you need something in the bulletin, please send the information to Susan by **Tuesday**. You can call the office or email Susan at [secretary@millburnchurch.org](mailto:secretary@millburnchurch.org). Thank you for your help.

### **Pastor Miranda's Office Hours:**

Pastor Miranda's ministry often takes her out of the office. While she maintains an office presence Mon, Tues, and Thursday, her hours vary. In order to best meet your needs, feel free to call or email at [pastor@millburnchurch.org](mailto:pastor@millburnchurch.org) to schedule a meeting. Do not hesitate to contact her at 860-751-4452, especially in the event of an emergency. She looks forward to supporting you and serving the community at Millburn and beyond.

**The Discipleship Committee** is making it easier for you to send your thoughts and prayers to fellow church friends. Just stop at the table in Lauren Hall and sign greeting cards to mail to those of the congregation who need support, encouragement, or who we haven't seen in a while. The process is simple... if you see a card, sign it. If you don't see a card for someone, start one. To ensure delivery, cards will be limited to people listed in the church directory. Remember, it is up to you to help start cards, so we are less likely to overlook someone. If you have any questions, please contact Al Sommer.

**Shirts and decals** are available for sale. The sign up for them is on the link tree site. T-shirts are \$20 and the window decals are \$10. Please make checks payable to Millburn UCC or cash at worship service. Shirts will be made as orders are



received and please allow approximately two weeks for delivery depending on the availability of the supplier.

**Coffee Hour Sign-up** - We need your help. Please consider providing items for our Sunday Coffee Hours following the 10 a.m. worship service.

**Seeking men and women ages 15 to 100** to fill several open positions.

Contact Becky Fuller and Kris Franks of our Music Department. They are looking for people to join the choir, band, and handbell choir. Even if you think you can't read music, you can be a part of providing praise through music on Sunday mornings. We will show you how! All three groups meet on Wednesday nights: handbell choir at 6:15, choir at 7:15. and band at 8:00. \_\_Stop in to practice and check us out. Practice dates are listed on the church calendar. Come for one and stay for all three!!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AT MILLBURN CHURCH:**

**Council Meeting** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month

**Millburn Rummage & Bake Sale** – October 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.,  
October 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.