

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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 6, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Compassion in Action: Heroes and Sidekicks!

Announcements

Greeting and Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn

Alleluia

No. 106

1. Alleluia

2. Christ is Risen

3. I will praise you.

***Call to Worship**

One: It's a great day to be here.

Many: There are so many things we can do to serve the Lord.

One: Just listen for God's call to you. Let God guide your life.

Many: We are willing to open our lives to God's service.

One: Come, let's worship and celebrate God's good news for us.

Many: Let us bring our hopes and prayers to God with joy. AMEN

***Prayer of Confession**

God, we confess that it is hard to come to you in uncertain times. How can anything be worthy of love at such a time as this? Who can sort out there feelings in this mess? We want time, to clean up, to get things in order, to

research, to know things. God, you remind us that you are the city on the hill, not us. Be our light, and remind us that we are allowed to be a mess and still love. Amen

***Words of Assurance**

Jesus comes in the midst of crisis, full of grace, so we know the truth: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, right now. Amen.

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

Celebration of Holy Communion

All Believers are welcome at this Table.

You may commune as you are served

Invitation

Faith communities around the Earth gather to observe World Communion Sunday. Some call it Holy Communion, others refer to it as the Great Thanksgiving (Eucharist) or Lord's Supper. Some place elements on an altar. In the Protestant tradition, we approach the Table. Every language and tongue, every tribe and nation, every continent and hemisphere represented as the Body of Christ accepts the invitation to unity around a meal prepared by the One who entered a body, the

human condition, and the brokenness of the world. Let us join together in the name of Jesus the Christ to commune as one.

One: God be with you.

Many: The Holy One is with us.

One: May our hardened hearts be softened.

Many: We lift them up to the Holy One with thanksgiving and in hopeful expectation.

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Breaking Bread and Pouring Cup

Sharing Elements

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: In peace let us pray:

ALL: Communal God, we give you thanks that as you shared in life and death, you lead us into the resurrected life. At this table, we acknowledge your abiding presence among us. You offered us bread and cup, which we receive in remembrance and expectation of your movement in human history. Form us as your faithful community and shape us as servants and stewards of your realm. By your Holy Spirit, may your covenant reign within our hearts and manifest in the witness of our lives now and forever. Amen.

Anthem

Malala's Dream

Ethan McGrath

We Hear God's Word

Old Testament Reading (The Message)

Esther 4: 9-17

⁹⁻¹¹ Hathach came back and told Esther everything Mordecai had said. Esther talked it over with Hathach and then sent him back to Mordecai with this message:

“Everyone who works for the king here, and even the people out in the provinces, knows that there is a single fate for every man or woman who approaches the king without being invited: death. The one exception is if the king extends his gold scepter; then he or she may live. And it’s been thirty days now since I’ve been invited to come to the king.”

¹²⁻¹⁴ When Hathach told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai sent her this message: “Don’t think that just because you live in the king’s house you’re the one Jew who will get out of this alive. If you persist in staying silent at a time like this, help and deliverance will arrive for the Jews from someplace else; but you and your family will be wiped out. Who knows? Maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this.”

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Esther sent back her answer to Mordecai: “Go and get all the Jews living in Susa together. Fast for me. Don’t eat or drink for three days, either day or night. I and my maids will fast with you. If you will do this, I’ll go to the king, even though it’s forbidden. If I die, I die.”

¹⁷ Mordecai left and carried out Esther’s instructions.

Sermon

“For Such A Time As This”

Rev. Miranda Moeller

We Respond to God's Word

* Hymn

They’ll Know We Are Christians

No. 494

1 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain

And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. [Refrain]

3 We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. [Refrain]

4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit who makes us one; [Refrain]

An Order of Farewell for the Heinlein Family

***People: We feel sorrow in your leaving, yet we rejoice with you in anticipation of this new phase of your life. We will miss your love and support, yet we know you will add much to the lives of those who will be your new church family, as you have added much to our lives. We will pray for you and for the whole family of God.**

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

Holy One, we thank you for our abundance and the privilege to share in the flourishing of our community and the world. Bless these gifts and be glorified by our generosity and trust in your provision, sufficiency, and renewing power. Amen.

Closing Hymn

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

No. 446

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord lift his countenance upon you,
 and give you peace, and give you peace.
 The Lord make his face to shine upon you
 and be gracious, and be gracious;
 the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.
 Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

*Commission and Blessing

May the Holy One be an ever present companion and partner as you encounter the tests of life. May your softened heart break over the pains, pangs, and problems of the world.

May the strength of the Spirit fill you, the power of the Spirit embolden you, and the leading of the Spirit guide you as co-creators of the kingdom of God...now and forever. Go in abundant hope, peace and love.

*Congregational Response

No. 312

AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

Today's Liturgy: <https://katyandtheword.com/tag/esther-4/> and *Hardness of Heart: Service Prayers for World Communion Sunday, the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Year B* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Today's Ushers: Thank you Nancy Tschannen and Margie Petroff for serving as ushers this morning.

Celebrating Birthdays: Astrid Mathis 10/7, Patricia Vos 10/7, Sarah Boulett 10/12, Abby Manna 10/12, Anna Zradicka 10/12, and Charles Denman 10/13

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's; 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; Donna Geiger's niece, Fay Anne, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer; and *Kris Frank's grandson Clay, experiencing a mental health crisis.*

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. 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 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.

Mission Committee Food Drive

The Mission Committee is having a food drive this fall to benefit the Lake Villa Township Food Pantry which includes the Lake Villa and Lindenhurst communities. This pantry supplies food for approximately 40 families each month. Below is the list of items that are needed at this time! Place the items in the wicker basket near the altar and thank you for your support!

Canned veggies, canned protein (tuna, chicken), pasta and soup

Paper products such as toilet paper, tissue, paper towel

Soaps such as dishwashing soap and body soaps

Dog and cat food are also needed.

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 - 3rd Thursday of the month

Highway Cleanup – October 6th 11:30 a.m., at Millburn Church. **ALL** are welcome to participate as well as students who need volunteer hours.