

**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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**Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost    October 13, 2024    10:00 a.m.**

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***Compassion in Action: Heroes and Sidekicks!***

Announcements

Greeting and Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn

Jesu, Jesu

No. 600

[Refrain:]

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them. [Refrain]

2 Neighbors are rich and poor,  
varied in color and race,  
neighbors are near and far away. [Refrain]

3 These are the ones we should serve,  
these are the ones we should love;  
all these are neighbors to us and you. [Refrain]

4 Loving puts us on our knees,  
serving as though we are slaves,  
this is the way we should live with you. [Refrain]

5 Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you. [Refrain]

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Sometimes we wonder how we have gotten through some difficult situations.

**Many: God has been with us, lifting and comforting our spirits.**

One: We struggle and worry.

**Many: God's loving presence sustains and strengthens us.**

One: Listen for God's call to you.

**Many: Lord, we are listening and seeking your guidance. AMEN.**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Just God, we confess our attachment to things of this world, to our possessions, and to objects of status. We acknowledge the pride we take in doing good things that require little of us while turning away from the needed thing that challenges our wants and desires. Make us repairers of brokenness and restorers of loss. Help us to discern that life in full pursuit of your kingdom is rich, full, and freeing. Even as you test us, help us meet the moment with abounding love and abiding faith. Amen.**

**\*Words of Assurance**

Dear One, God is with you. Hear these words of assurance from 1 Corinthians 10:13, "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful and will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing God will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it."

## 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

Magic Penny

Miranda Moeller

Donna Geary

## Young People's Time

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

Old Testament Reading (The Message)

Esther 5: 1-8, 7:1-6

5 1-3 Three days later Esther dressed in her royal robes and took up a position in the inner court of the palace in front of the king's throne room. The king was on his throne facing the entrance. When he noticed Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased to see her; the king extended the gold scepter in his hand. Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. The king asked, "And what's your desire, Queen Esther? What do you want? Ask and it's yours—even if it's half my kingdom!"

4 "If it please the king," said Esther, "let the king come with Haman to a dinner I've prepared for him."

5-6 "Get Haman at once," said the king, "so we can go to dinner with Esther."

So the king and Haman joined Esther at the dinner she had arranged. As they were drinking the wine, the king said, "Now, what is it you want? Half of my kingdom isn't too much to ask! Just ask."

7-8 Esther answered, “Here’s what I want. If the king favors me and is pleased to do what I desire and ask, let the king and Haman come again tomorrow to the dinner that I will fix for them. Then I’ll give a straight answer to the king’s question.”

7 <sup>1-2</sup> So the king and Haman went to dinner with Queen Esther. At this second dinner, while they were drinking wine the king again asked, “Queen Esther, what would you like? Half of my kingdom! Just ask and it’s yours.”

<sup>3</sup> Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor in your eyes, O King, and if it please the king, give me my life, and give my people their lives.

<sup>4</sup> “We’ve been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed—sold to be massacred, eliminated. If we had just been sold off into slavery, I wouldn’t even have brought it up; our troubles wouldn’t have been worth bothering the king over.”

<sup>5</sup> King Xerxes exploded, “Who? Where is he? This is monstrous!”

<sup>6</sup> “An enemy. An adversary. This evil Haman,” said Esther.

Sermon

“Even If Your Voice Shakes”

Rev. Miranda Moeller

### **We Respond to God’s Word**

\*Hymn

Fill the World with Love

No. 467

1. With the vision in our minds of how the world could be,  
And the fullness of our hearts from the suffering we see;  
When we make all that we are and have part of God’s destiny,  
We can fill the world with love, we can fill the world with love.

2. All the people in this world living lives of pain and fear;  
Crying out into the night, wond’ring when someone will hear;  
While there are so many others having so much they can share,  
Can we fill the world with love, can we fill the world with love?

3. We whose spirits long to share, long to comfort and to heal,  
 Know that when we act alone, hope is difficult to feel;  
 But together as we labor God's compassion to reveal  
 We will fill the world with love, we will fill the world with love.

4. Let us hesitate no longer in our doubt and our dismay;  
 There's a pow'r at work within us that has promised a new day.  
 And the time will surely come, it will not be long delayed  
 When God fills the world with love, when God fills the world with love.

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, may the gifts we bring be magnified and do miracles in our community. Use them for restoration and hope as your kingdom is demonstrated before us all. Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

## Sister Let Me Be Your Servant

No. 490

1 Sister, let me be your servant,  
Brother, let me walk with you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
Let you be my servant too.

2 We are pilgrims on a journey,  
Fellow trav'lers on the road.  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.

3 I will weep when you are weeping,  
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
Till we've seen this journey thro'

4 When we sing to God in heaven,  
We shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together  
Of great love and agony.

5 Brother, let me be your servant,  
Sister, let me walk with you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
Let you be my servant too.

## \*Commission and Blessing

Be strengthened in God's love.

Be held in God's goodness.

Be enriched in God's generosity.

Do the hard thing by the power of the Spirit.

Love our neighbors with the love of Jesus Christ.

And, repair and restore the Holy One's good creation. Amen.

AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

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**Today's Liturgy:** Nancy Townley at

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3097/worship-connection-september-29-2024> and *Eye of the Needle: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First*

*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 Char Myers for serving as ushers this morning.

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Alec Jacobsen 10/14, Sheri Jacobsen 10/15, Aidan Schmeling 10/15

**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; 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; Donna Geary's great nephew, Teddy, a one year-old recently diagnosed with cancer; 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 *Nan Thorson, as she seeks relief from hearing loss.*

### 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.

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