

**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-Second Sunday after Pentecost    October 20, 2024    10:00 a.m.**

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

Announcements

Greeting and Words of Welcome

\*Opening Hymn

Like a Child

No 133

1 like a child love would send to reveal and to mend, like a child and a  
friend, Jesus comes like a child we may find claiming heart soul and mind,  
like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes

2 like a child we will meet, ragged clothes, dirty feet, like a child on the street, Jesus  
comes like a child we once knew coming back into view, like a child born anew,  
Jesus comes

3 like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a child here to stay,  
Jesus comes like a child we receive all that love can conceive, like a child  
we believe Jesus comes

\*Call to Worship

One: Today we gather to worship, with all our hopes, weariness, joys, and concerns  
swirling within us. We gather to worship One who both ascends above our  
condition and descends to meet us in the midst of them.

**Many: Bless the Holy One, O my soul. O Creator, my God, you are very great.  
You are clothed with honor and majesty.**

One: We are humbled and grateful that the Majestic God knows our names and seeks our presence.

**Many: Bless the Holy One, O my soul. O Creator, my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty.**

One: We raise our spirits as one body, strengthening, fortifying, and encouraging one another as we honor The Holy One's glorious and precious name.

**Many: Bless the Holy One, O my soul. O Creator, my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty.**

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

**Liberating God, break us free from all the ways this world enslaves and ensnares your people. May our hearts be infused with your compassion. May our works be filled with your generosity. May our lives be testaments that new life in freedom, in love, and in you are possible. Transform us by your Spirit each day to be the part of you the world needs from us. We trust in your mercy and grace to make room and empower us to make it so. Amen.**

### **\*Words of Assurance**

Beloved, even now, the Holy One supplies the means to rewrite your story. God will strengthen you in your weakness, direct you in your uncertainty, and encourage you in your weariness. God has formed you, sustains you, and will be with you through it all.

### **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

Go the Distance

arr. By McHuff

Young People's Time

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

Old Testament Reading (The Message)

Esther 8: 1-9

**8** <sup>1-2</sup> That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, archenemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king because Esther had explained their relationship. The king took off his signet ring, which he had taken back from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. Esther appointed Mordecai over Haman's estate.

<sup>3-6</sup> Then Esther again spoke to the king, falling at his feet, begging with tears to counter the evil of Haman the Agagite and revoke the plan that he had plotted against the Jews. The king extended his gold scepter to Esther. She got to her feet and stood before the king. She said, "If it please the king and he regards me with favor and thinks this is right, and if he has any affection for me at all, let an order be written that cancels the bulletins authorizing the plan of Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite to annihilate the Jews in all the king's provinces. How can I stand to see this catastrophe wipe out my people? How can I bear to stand by and watch the massacre of my own relatives?"

<sup>7-8</sup> King Xerxes said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew: "I've given Haman's estate to Esther and he's been hanged on the gallows because he attacked the Jews. So go ahead now and write whatever you decide on behalf of the Jews; then seal it with the signet ring." (An order written in the king's name and sealed with his signet ring is irrevocable.)

<sup>9</sup> So the king's secretaries were brought in on the twenty-third day of the third month, the month of Sivan, and the order regarding the Jews was written word for word as Mordecai dictated and was addressed to the satraps, governors, and officials of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, 127 provinces in all, to each province in its own script and each people in their own language, including the Jews in their script and language.

Sermon

“A Hero’s Homecoming”

Rev. Miranda Moeller

**We Respond to God’s Word**

\*Hymn

Accept, O God, the Gifts We Bring

No. 379

Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay,  
 Transform them into blessings on those we serve today.

Rekindle deep within us all a passion to fulfill the ministry disciples have,  
 Empower’d to do your will.

(2 times)

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**

**Good and Generous God, receive these gifts as an offering of our love and lives.  
May they be used to benefit your people and to honor your holy name. Amen.**

Closing Hymn

If you Trust in God to Guide You  
(Verses 1 & 3)

No. 565

1 If you will trust in God to guide you  
and hope in God through all your ways,  
God will give strength, whate'er betide you,  
and bear you through the evil days.  
Who trusts in God's unchanging love  
builds on the rock that will not move.

3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving;  
so do your own part faithfully,  
and trust God's word; though undeserving,  
you'll find God's promise true to be.  
God never will forsake in need  
the soul that trusts in God indeed.

**\*Commission and Blessing**

Go in the freedom of new life in Christ.  
Go in the liberty that transcends the ways of the world.  
Go in the hope, power, and peace of the good news. Amen.

**\*Congregational Response**

No. 312

**AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.**

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**Today's Liturgy: *Ransom for Many*: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Second 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 Lisa Horist and Pat Coon for serving as ushers this morning.

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Lynnette Bratzke 10/22, Karen Ende 10/22, Laura Lopez 10/24, Jodi Tipler 10/25, JoEllen Roebuck 10/26, Cathy Knight 10/27

**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.

**Messenger Deadline** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month

**Feed My Starving Children - volunteer opportunity**

All are welcome to join us in packing meals on Saturday, November 2. We have 10 spots reserved for the 9:00-10:45 am shift. The address is 742 East Park Ave, Libertyville, IL 60048. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Sarah Boulett ([serossi4@gmail.com](mailto:serossi4@gmail.com)).

**Mission Committee Food Drive**

The Mission Committee is having a food drive this fall to benefit the Lake Villa Township Food Pantry with 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.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT MILLBURN CHURCH:**

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

**MYLO Meeting** – October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Lauren Hall, ALL ladies are welcome!

**Feed My Starving Children** - Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at 742 East Park Ave., Libertyville, IL