

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

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 10, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Building Empathy- Step Out of Your Comfort Zone

Announcements

Greeting and Words of Welcome

*Opening Hymn

There Is a Balm in Gilead

No. 501

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Sometimes I feel discouraged,
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.
There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

2 If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus,
and say "He died for all!"
There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead

to heal the sin-sick soul.

3 Don't ever feel discouraged,
 for Jesus is your friend;
 and if you lack for knowledge
 he'll ne'er refuse to lend.
 There is a balm in Gilead
 to make the wounded whole;
 there is a balm in Gilead
 to heal the sin-sick soul.

***Call to Worship**

One: From generation to generation, the Holy One has loved justice and righteousness, lifted the broken and bowed, and opened possibilities for the dejected.

**Many: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever.
 Trust the Holy One!**

One: When the power brokers, corrupt systems, and tools of violence have failed us, the Holy One has remained faithful to abiding love and abundant liberation.

**Many: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever.
 Follow the Holy One!**

One: Praise the Holy One with song and dance, in spirit and in truth, for God's glory and for life abundantly!

**Many: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever.
 Praise the Holy One!**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of mercy and possibilities, forgive us for clinging to the measures of success and security in our world rather than trusting in the abundance of your creation. Help us to recognize the kingdom coming and our role as participants in your realm. Liberate us from the bonds of consumerism, scarcity, and self-centeredness, and make us vessels of your love come alive in the world. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

Beloved, you are inheritors of the kingdom of God. You receive riches beyond compare. The Holy One journeys with you and enables you to grow in grace, peace, and contentment.

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

Shepherd Me O God

Young People's Time

We Hear God's Word

Old Testament (NRSV)

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

² I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³ Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴ When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

on that very day their plans perish.

⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

⁶ who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹ The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

Gospel Reading

Mark 12:38-44

³⁸ As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

We Respond to God’s Word

*Hymn

Holding Up the Light

Even though my candle is so small

and the shadows are so tall

I am holding up the light.

Storms are gonna come

with roaring winds

still your Spirit’s here within

and I’ll be shining in the night.

In every heart You have placed a holy flame

If we’d all just let them shine

The world would never be the same

Even though my candle is so small

and the shadows are so tall

I am holding up the light.

Storms are gonna come

with roaring winds

still your Spirit’s here within

and I’ll be shining in the night.

When fear is strong

And our differences divide

Still you light the path between

To help us reach the other side

Even though my candle is so small
and the shadows are so tall
I am holding up the light.
Storms are gonna come
with roaring winds
still your Spirit's here within
and I'll be shining in the night.

You call our names
From the lips of those in need
And we find the face of Christ
As we follow where you lead

Even though my candle is so small
and the shadows are so tall
I am holding up the light.
Storms are gonna come
with roaring winds
still your Spirit's here within
and I'll be shining in the night.

We are shining in the night,
we are shining in the night.

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

Great God, receive these gifts of love with blessing for those who give and those who receive. Magnify our ministries, enlarge our circles of care, and amplify our love in the world. Amen.

*Closing 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.

*Commission and Blessing

When the needs of the world compel you,
 May the blessings of God assure you,
 May the abundance of God inspire you, and
 May the goodness of God embolden you
 To resist the systems of scarcity and
 To embrace a life of generosity, compassion, and mutuality
 In the presence of Creator's abundance. Amen.

*Congregational Response

No. 312

AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

Today's Liturgy: *Abundance and Poverty: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Fifth 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 Eric Walters, for serving as ushers this morning.

Celebrating Birthdays: Kevin Gniadek 11/12, and Bonnie Nehring 11/15

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 underwent breast cancer surgery; and Roberta Young, navigating seizures; Judy Kozak, who is recovering after a fall and hip surgery, *and Jean Lindholm, Diane Etienne's mom, in rehab following a car accident.*

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.

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

Messenger Deadline – 3rd Friday of the month

Join us on Sunday, November 24th, for Service to Serve. During the 10:00 worship service we will worship in a hands-on manner. Following the choir, Scripture reading, and prayer, we will have the opportunity to engage in several service projects. Service projects will include card making and putting together a meal for Safe Haven. There will be service opportunities for people of all ages. This is a meaningful service where we actively engage as the Body of Christ. I hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT MILLBURN CHURCH:

Council Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month

Pet Blessing – November 17th, 1:00 outside, by the picnic tables.

Service to Serve = November 24th, 10:00 a.m.