

# 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-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost    November 17, 2024    10:00 a.m.**

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***Building Empathy- Walk in Someone Else's Shoes***

Announcements

Greeting and Words of Welcome

\*Opening Hymn

Gather Us In

No. 284

Here in this place new light is streaming  
Now is the darkness vanished away  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken  
Gather us in, the blind and the lame  
Call to us now and we shall awaken  
We shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young, our lives are a mystery  
We are the old who yearn for your face  
We have been sung throughout all of history  
Called to be light to the whole human race  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly  
Give us the courage to enter the song

Here we will take the wine and the water  
Here we will take the bread of new birth  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters

Call us anew to be salt for the earth  
 Give us to drink the wine of compassion  
 Give us to eat the bread that is you  
 Nourish us well and teach us to fashion  
 Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

Not in the dark of buildings confining  
 Not in some heaven light years away  
 But here in this place the new light is shining  
 Now is the kingdom, now is the day  
 Gather us in and hold us forever  
 Gather us in and make us your own  
 Gather us in, all peoples together  
 Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

**\*Call to Worship**

One: We are called here this morning to learn of Christ's healing love.

**Many: Help us, O Lord, to learn your lessons of compassion.**

One: Every day there are many ways in which we can offer help to others.

**Many: Help us, O Lord, to be ready to reach out to all in need.**

One: Come, let us worship the One who prepares us for service.

**Many: Let us sing our songs of praise to the One who has healed us. AMEN.**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Redeemer and Liberator, we call upon your power to make all things new. We confess that we have compromised your good news and settled for a comfortable gospel rather than embrace the radical love, hospitality, and inclusion of your kingdom. We have been satisfied with a faith that conforms to the world rather than one that challenges the systems and ways of the world. Forgive us for our focus on our own survival and pleasure while your creation perishes all around us. For your mercy and in repentance, we pray. 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

For Good

Stephen Schwartz

## Young People's Time

## We Hear God's Word

Old Testament (NRSV)

1 Samuel 1:4-20

<sup>4</sup> On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters, <sup>5</sup> but to Hannah he gave a double portion<sup>[a]</sup> because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. <sup>6</sup> Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. <sup>7</sup> So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. <sup>8</sup> Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

<sup>9</sup> After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord.<sup>[b]</sup> Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of

the temple of the Lord. <sup>10</sup> She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. <sup>11</sup> She made this vow: “O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants,<sup>[c]</sup> and no razor shall touch his head.”

<sup>12</sup> As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup> Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. <sup>14</sup> So Eli said to her, “How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.” <sup>15</sup> But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. <sup>16</sup> Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.” <sup>17</sup> Then Eli answered, “Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.” <sup>18</sup> And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your sight.” Then the woman went her way and ate and drank with her husband,<sup>[d]</sup> and her countenance was sad no longer.<sup>[e]</sup>

<sup>19</sup> They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. <sup>20</sup> In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the Lord.”

Sermon

“An Empathetic Ear”

Rev. Miranda Moeller

### **We Respond to God’s Word**

\*Hymn

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

Somewhere over the rainbow

Way up high

There's a land that I heard of

Once in a lullaby

Somewhere over the rainbow

Skies are blue

And the dreams that you dare to dream  
Really do come true

Someday I'll wish upon a star  
And wake up where the clouds are far behind me  
Where troubles melt like lemon drops  
Away above the chimney tops  
That's where you'll find me

Somewhere over the rainbow  
Bluebirds fly  
Birds fly over the rainbow  
Why then, oh, why can't I?

Somewhere over the rainbow  
Bluebirds fly  
Birds fly over the rainbow  
Why then, oh, why can't I?

If happy little bluebirds fly  
Beyond the rainbow  
Why, oh why can't I?

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 Love, may these gifts and offerings make a difference in this life of the community we love, serve, and reflect. May these gifts and offerings extend beyond the borders and boundaries of the stones that encase us to the world that needs us. May these gifts and offerings be a balm to a world in need of comfort and a fire to a world in need of refining. May it begin within us and flourish beyond us. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn****This Is My Song****No. 722**

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
 A song of peace for lands afar and mine.  
 This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
 Here are my hopes, my dreams, my sacred shrine.  
 But other hearts in other lands are beating,  
 With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
 And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.  
 But other lands have sunlight too and clover,  
 And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.  
 O hear my song, O God of all the nations,  
 A song of peace for their land and for mine.

**\*Commission and Blessing**

Feel the power of Christ's healing love restoring you. Go in peace, offering help and hope to others. And may the peace of God always be with you. AMEN.

**AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.**

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

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3057/worship-connection-september-8-2024> and *All Thrown Down: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Sixth 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, Lynnette and Ron Bratzke, for serving as ushers this morning.

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Mary O'Young 11/18, Scott Zradicka 11/19, Todd Schmeling 11/22, Joey Boulett 11/24

**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; Roberta Young, navigating seizures; Judy Kozak, who is recovering after a fall and hip surgery; Jean Lindholm, Diane Etienne's mom, in rehab following a car accident, *Susan Lee's friend, Kim, who has been hospitalized; Carol Rossi's sister-in-law, Pat, and niece, Eileen, both of whom are navigating cancer; and the friends and family of Mary Lester, as they grieve her death.*

## **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.

**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** — 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

**Calling all bakers!** Time for our annual Christmas Cookie Walk. This year it will be held on Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup>. Please bring in your favorite home-made holiday cookies, fudge, or candies. Please sign up by the bulletin board in Lauren Hall. Drop off is Friday 12/13 from 6-8:00 p.m. or Saturday between 8-9:00 a.m. If you have any questions call Margo at 847-525-3591.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT MILLBURN CHURCH:**

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

**Pet Blessing** – November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 outside, by the picnic tables.

**Service to Serve** = November 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.

**Christmas Cookie Walk** – December 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.