

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-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost December 8, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Building Empathy- Asking For Help

Announcements

Greeting and Words of Welcome

*Opening Hymn Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn No. 138

1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for
Angels herald its dawning, sing out your joy, for
soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts
together, he opens wide the heav'nly door and
lives now inside us for ever.

2 In deepest night his coming shall be, when
All the world is despairing, as morning light so
quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the silent join in song, the tired shall leap in
wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and
weapons be broken asunder.

3 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though
 dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall
 crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
 love be our song and love our prayers and love, our endless
 story, may God fill evry day we share and
 bring us at last into glory.

***Call to Worship**

One: We come to you, O God, to thank you for what is good.

Many: We come to you, O God, to cry out for what is wrong.

One: We come to you, O God, to ask for help and restoration.

Many: We come to you, O God, with aching hearts and glad souls.

One: Let us worship God.

***Prayer of Confession**

God of Blissful Serenity,

As you move about your Realm on Earth, you desire our prayers to come alive. Knowing the hopes of our hearts, you call us to create action that will help our neighbors. Yet, there are times we continue to pray in mind only, never fulfilling our calling to care for our neighbors. What we forget is that joy abounds when we can transform a prayer from thoughts to concrete actions, blessing our siblings across our world. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

When we bring alive our prayers, we experience Christ in our midst. May we embrace the grace of God and initiate opportunities to care for God's children with open hearts.

*Advent Response

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her King!
 Let every heart prepare Him room,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jacobsen Family

Passing of the Peace

Anthem

Breath of Heaven

Amy Grant

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading (NRSV)

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
 make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
 and the crooked shall be made straight,
 and the rough ways made smooth,

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

We Respond to God’s Word

*Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West

No. 687

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in
him no south or north, but one community
of love through out the whole wide earth.

2. In Christ shall true hearts ev’ry where their
high communion find, his service is the
golden cord close binding human kind.

3. Join hands, disciples of the faith what
e’er your race may be, all children of the
living God are surely kin to me.

4. In Christ now meet both east and west in
him meet south and north; all loving hearts are
One in him through out the whole wide earth.

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

God of All Peace,

We give thanks each time we remember your gifts in our lives. Our gratitude extends to the ways we can use our gifts of time, talent, and treasures. May your boundless wisdom compel us to use our energies in ways that will share the most love in our world. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

I've Got Peace Like a River

No. 530

1 I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a
river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.

2 I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a
fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

3 I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an
ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

***Commission and Blessing**

May the Spirit of Light,
The Christ of Love,
And the God of Joy
Infuse our souls with peace and a song of thanksgiving
As we seek the presence of God in our world.

***Congregational Response**

No. 312

AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

Today's Liturgy: Wreath lighting at: <https://sanctifiedart.org/how-does-a-weary-world-rejoice-advent-bundle>

Praying With Joy: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent Year C was written by the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, senior pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/advent-2c-december-8/>

Today's Ushers: Thank you, Char Myers and Pat Coon for serving as ushers this morning.

Celebrating Birthdays: Kaitlyn Lantman 12/10, and Stephen Smith 12/14

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 sister-in-law, Kim, who has been hospitalized; Carol Rossi's

sister-in-law, Pat, and niece, Eileen, both of whom are navigating cancer; and Eddie Young, Ruth's husband, who continues to recover at home.

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

Calling all bakers! Time for our annual Christmas Cookie Walk. This year it will be held on Saturday December 14th. 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:

Advent Devotion Study via Zoom - Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month (December 2nd Thursday)

Christmas Cookie Walk – December 14th, 9:00 a.m.