

Millburn Congregational—United Church of Christ

19073 W. OLD TOWN COURT.

LAKE VILLA, IL 60046

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*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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Building Empathy- Asking For Help

Announcements

Greetings and Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn

Come O Long-expected Jesus

No. 125

1 Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set your people free, from our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our test shall be. You, our strength and consolation, salvation to impart, dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.

2 Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring. By your own eternal Spirit it rule in all our hearts alone; by your all sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.

*Call to Worship

One: Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

Many: We seek time to embrace the joy.

One: Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

Many: We create opportunities to embody joy.

One: Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

Many: Singing songs that announce joy.

*Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, Creator of Wonder and Delight,
We have fallen into the crevices of worry. We have allowed the preoccupation of what was said in the past and will happen in the future to distract us from embodying joy in the present. Clear a pathway to our souls so that we can find levity and delight again. May we find ways from the chasms of concern to the daylight of hopefulness. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance

The blessedness of God's grace will fill our hearts with a peace-filled joy as we move about this season and follow the light ahead.

*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

Passing of the Peace

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

Generous God, we thank you for bringing us to this season of faith, hope, and love. As we look at our lives, we see evidence of the countless ways that you have provided for our needs. Let gratitude well up in our hearts and overflow in generosity to others. Draw us outward to see ways that we can joyfully share what you have given. Let our acts of kindness as a church bear good fruit in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Luke 3:7-18)

Instant Pageant 2024

Our Story Begins

Rev. Miranda Moeller

Carol

Oh Come All Ye Faithful

No. 148

As we sing, move to the location and role of your heart. Watch the bulletin for directions for your part to move forward.

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to
Bethlehem, come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

2 Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

3 Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee, with love
and awe; who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation, Jesus to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

The Prophecy

Isaiah 9 2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol

O Come O Come Emmanuel (v 1, 2, 4)

No 119

Mary, Joseph, Jesus and Inn keepers come forward

1 O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's deep shadows put to flight. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

4 O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Things Come Together

Luke 2:1-5

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem (v 1, 2, 4)

No. 144

1 Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

No Room in the Inn

Luke 2:6-7

⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol

Away in a Manger

No. 147

Angels, Shepherds, and Animals come forward

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Keeping Watch

Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Carol

The First Noel (v 1,2)

No. 151

1 The first Noel, the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was
so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star shining in the east,
beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Good News

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (v 1,3)

No. 150

Wise People come forward

1 Hark! The herald angels sing. "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, al ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies, with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

3 Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings, mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

King Brings Gifts

Matthew 2: 1-5, 7-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Carol

We Three Kings (v 1,5)

No. 172

1 We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain,
moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, west ward leading, still
proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

5 Glorious now behold him arise; Christ and God and sacrifice: alleluia, alleluia,
sound through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still
proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

The Greatest Gift of All

This is where our Christmas story ends, but it is not the end of the story. We know that Jesus' story continues to touch people of all backgrounds, just as it touched the people in Bethlehem and the Magi from far away. Jesus' story is a gift, not of gold nor wrapped in paper and bows, but of Light and life. The light that shone for the magi shines for us still, guiding us towards Jesus, towards hope, towards new life.

Carol

Joy to the World (v1,2)

No. 143

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let Earth receive her King; let every heart
prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields
and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the
sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

*Commission and Blessing

As we go into the world with this story in our hearts, share it with all and spread the joy.

*Congregational Response

No. 312

AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

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

Again...Rejoice: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Advent Year C was written by the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, senior pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois.

Today's Ushers: Thank you, Diane and Scott Etienne for serving as ushers this morning.

Celebrating Birthdays: Donna Geary 12/21, Penny Smith 12/21

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; 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; 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; and *prayers for Bob Tschannen's journey with Alzheimer's.*

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.