

# 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**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 22, 2024**

**10:00 a.m.**

*Building Empathy- Asking For Help*

Announcements

Greetings and Words of Welcome

\*Opening Hymn

When God Is a Child

No. 132

1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain:

When God is a child  
there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first  
and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth. (Refrain)

3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Savior is born. (Refrain)

4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart.  
Jesus has come and will never depart. (Refrain)

**\*Call to Worship**

One: How does a weary world rejoice?

**Many: We sing songs of hope. We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us. We tell the stories of what could be. We listen for God's word. We resist the temptation to give up or give in. We remember Mary's song. We gather for worship. We hope. We hope. Against all odds, we hope.**

One: Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making. Let us worship holy God.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, More days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world. With open hearts we pray, amen.**

**\*Words of Assurance**

One: Body of Christ, no matter how many times we let hope slip through our fingers, we still belong to God. So hear and repeat these words after me:

I am God's beloved.

**Many: I am God's beloved.**

One: I am forgiven.

**Many: I am forgiven.**

One: I am blessed and sent to serve.

**Many: I am blessed and sent to serve.**

One: This is the good news of the Gospel. This is a hope we can hang our hats on.  
Thanks be to God for God's unending love. Amen.

### \*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

Anthem

Come Again, Emmanuel

### Young People's Time

## We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading (NRSV)

Luke 1: 46-55

And Mary<sup>[a]</sup> said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name;

<sup>50</sup> indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

- <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
 he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
 and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things  
 and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
 in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Sermon

A Love Like This

Rev. Miranda Moeller

### **We Respond to God's Word**

\*Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

No. 124

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
 and with fear and trembling stand;  
 ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
 for with blessing in his hand,  
 Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
 our full homage to demand.

2 Truly God, yet born of Mary,  
 as of old on earth he stood,  
 word of God, in human vesture,  
 in the body and the blood,  
 Christ will give to all the faithful  
 his own self for heavenly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven  
 spreads its vanguard on the way,  
 as the Light of light descendeth  
 from the realms of endless day,  
 that the powers of hell may vanish  
 as the darkness clears away.

4 At his feet the six-winged seraph;  
 cherubim with sleepless eye,  
 veil their faces to the Presence,  
 as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
 "Alleluia, Alleluia,  
 Alleluia, God most high!"

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 Joy, Holy Hope,**

**We delight in living in your ways as we create your Realm here on earth. These offerings of talents, treasures, and time are not to appease you but to collaborate with you. As co-creators, we seek your intentions and celebrate your love for us and our neighbors. Amen.**

\*Closing 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.

**\*Commission and Blessing**

As we seek the ways of God and our Creator's intentions for our lives,  
May the Spirit of God enliven us as we love boldly,  
May the Spirit of God strengthen us as we create paths of peace.  
May the Spirit of God awaken us as we love generously and widely.  
A season of birth is imminent, for God's love is with us as we seek our renewal of  
life.

**\*Congregational Response**

No. 312

**AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.**

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

*Abolish to Establish: Service Prayers for the Fourth 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, Lynette and Ron Bratzke for serving as ushers this morning.

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Marianne Turnbull 12/23, John Turnbull 12/31

**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 navigating 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; Eddie Young, Ruth's husband, who continues to recover at home; and prayers for Bob Tschannen's journey with Alzheimer's; *the family and friends of Kris Frank's uncle, John Clark, as they grieve his death; and Char's friend, Judy Clossey, who is unable to swallow, as well as her friend, Bob, who is struggling with a life threatening stomach aneurism.*

### **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



**UPCOMING EVENTS AT MILLBURN CHURCH:**

**Christmas Eve Service** – 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**Council Meeting** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (December 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)