

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

First Sunday After Epiphany January 12, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Building Empathy- Asking For Help

Announcements

Greetings and Words of Welcome

*Opening Hymn

What Was Your Vow and Vision

No. 177

1 What was your vow and vision,
revealed and recognized,
Christ, when you came to Jordan
and asked to be baptized?
Was there a sudden splendor
of prophets, priests and kings,
a wind that stirred the waters,
a blur of mighty wings?

2 Was this God's call, the crowning
of all you had become:
"Go, show and tell my coming,
my own, my chosen one?"
Did scripture join with scripture,
revealing in surprise
the triumph of a servant
rejected and despised?

3 We meet you at the water
and ponder why and how,
in hope that we may follow
where God is going now,
anointed by your Spirit,
reborn, and energized,
through deed and word proclaiming:
"In Christ we are baptized!"

***Call to Worship**

One: There are some days when I need the reminder that I belong to God. Do you ever feel that way?

Many: Yes. We do. The world can be a harsh place; we often need that reminder.

One: Well then, let us care for one another. Let us speak the truth we each need to hear. Church, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

Many: Friend, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

One: Let us worship the God who knows our names. Let us worship the God who calls us beloved. Amen.

***Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, From the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced "good" with "not enough." Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us. For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

One: Family of faith, God's grace and understanding is deeper and wider than we could possibly imagine. So say these words of grace with me:

Many: Our story begins with belovedness. Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall, God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us. We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved. Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

Come, to the Waters

Young People's Time

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading (NRSV)

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ^[a] ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with ^[b] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved;[a] with you I am well pleased.”

Sermon

We Are the Beloved

Rev. Miranda Moeller

We Respond to God’s Word

*Hymn

Water, River, Spirit, Grace

No. 366

2x

Water, River, Spirit, Grace, sweep over me, sweep over me!
 Recarve the depths your fingers traced in sculpting me, in sculpting me.
 Water, River, Spirit, Grace, sweep over me, sweep over me!
 Recarve the depths your fingers traced in sculpting me, in sculpting me.

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**

O Gracious God, we thank you for the invitation to grow through giving, made possible by Your outpouring spirit. May these gifts we bring be used to form ever-new blessings in this congregation and around the world. And may our lives be the instruments of love and joy you desire. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

You Will Trust in God to Guide You

No. 565

1. If you will trust in God to guide you, and hope in God through all your ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide you, and bear you through the evil days.

Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that will not move.

2. God will embrace your pain and weeping, your helpless anger and distress.

If you are in God's care and keeping, in sorry will God love you less?

For Christ, who took for you a cross, will bring you safe through every loss.

3. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving; so do your own part faithfully,
And trust God's word; though undeserving, you'll find God's promise true to be.

God never will forsake in need the soul that trusts in God indeed.

***Commission and Blessing**

Remember that your first name is Beloved, given to you by God before any other name. Remember also it is the name given to every human being. May this blessed gift and claim of God grow in your heart and mind. And may it flow through you as a blessing into the life of the world. Blessings on you, Beloved! Amen and Amen.

***Congregational Response**

No. 312

AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

Today's Liturgy: *Heaven Opened: Service Prayers for the Baptism of Christ* was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Today's Ushers: Thank you, Margo Paramski and Margie Petroff for serving as ushers this morning.

Celebrating Birthdays: Scott Etienne 1/13, Linda Cloonan 1/13, Cindy Batz 1/16, Lisa Horist 1/17, Laura Horner 1/18, and Daniel Tate 1/19

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; Susan Lee's sister-in-law, Kim, who continues to be 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;

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.

Chili Cook Off - Bring your cooking skills, your taste buds, and your friends to our annual Chili Cook Off. It will be held in our Lauren Hall on Sunday, February 2nd, beginning at 11:30.

Try Every Chili - \$5.00 per person

Vote for your Favorite

Have a bowl of your Favorite

Cheer for the Winner

Be the Winner and enjoy a trophy and bragging rights

Sign up to compete, eat, or bring a dessert.

Friends are welcome!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AT MILLBURN CHURCH:

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

Chili Cook-off – February 2nd , after worship service