

**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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**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany      February 2, 2025      10:00 a.m.**  
*Compassion in Action: Rescue*

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Announcements

Greetings 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 (Adapted from Psalm 71)

One: In the Holy One, we take refuge; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

**Many: In your righteousness deliver us and hear our cries for justice and peace.**

One: In the Holy One, we draw strength; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

**Many: Be a rock of refuge for the vulnerable, a strong fortress to save creation, for you are our rock and fortress.**

One: In the Holy One, we receive courage; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

**Many: Rescue us, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel, for you, Holy One, are our hope and trust.**

\*Prayer of Confession

**God Who Knows Us, we pray that you form and shape us anew. Remind us who we are and draw us back to you. Transform us in love, correct us with compassion, and lead us with clarity into the paths of righteousness, truth, and peace. Forgive us for the ways that we reject your presence, your guidance, and your will. Redeem and restore us as your beloved creation and active citizens of your kingdom. In Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

\*Words of Assurance

Beloved, love never ends. You reflect the goodness, creative work, and imagination of God. The Holy One knows you well and calls you good. Receive the grace of God to live a life that ever transforms and renews through the power of God's abiding, constant, and tangible love.

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

**Celebration of Holy Communion**

*All Believers are welcome at this Table.  
You may commune as you are served*

Invitation

One: May God be with you

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift your hearts.

**Many: We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to the God we love.

**Many: We freely give God thanks and praise.**

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Breaking Bread and Pouring Cup

Sharing Elements

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: In thanksgiving let us pray:

**Many: We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.**

**We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.**

**May we bask in this glow**

**Now and forevermore. Amen.**

*Service of Holy Communion for Season after Epiphany* was written by the Rev. Kaji Douša, a United Church of Christ Pastor who serves as a pastor of Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City.

Anthem

You Can Do this Hard Thing

### **We Hear God's Word**

Gospel Reading (NRSV)

Luke 4: 21-30

<sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" <sup>23</sup> He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.' " <sup>24</sup> And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. <sup>25</sup> But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, <sup>26</sup> yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup> There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." <sup>28</sup> When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Sermon

A Hometown Crowd

Rev. Miranda Moeller

**We Respond to God's Word**

\*Hymn

Lord You Have Come to the Lakeshore

No. 342

1. Lord, you have come to the lakeshore  
 looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
 you only asked me to follow humbly.

## Refrain

O Lord, with your eyes you have  
 searched me,  
 and while smiling have spoken my name;  
 now my boat's left on the shoreline  
 behind me;  
 by your side I will seek other seas.

2. You know so well my possessions;  
 my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
 you will find there my nets and labor. [Refrain]

3. You need my hands, full of caring  
 Through my labors to give others rest,  
 And constant love that keeps on loving. [Refrain]

4. You, who have fished other oceans,  
 Ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
 My loving friend, as thus you call me. [Refrain]

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

**Giver of Good Gifts, may the gifts we give reflect your abundance and generosity. Use our time, talent, and treasure to serve our faith community and the world. May each offering be a seed that will grow, spread, and perfume the atmosphere with faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

Be Still, My Soul

No. 566

1 Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Trust in your God, your savior and your guide,  
who through all changes faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend  
through thorny ways leads to a peaceful end.

2 Be still, my soul: for God will undertake  
to guide the future surely as the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: The waves and winds still know  
the voice that calmed them in this world below.

3 Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
 when we shall dwell with forever more,  
 when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
 sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
 all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

**\*Commission and Blessing**

Beloved, be amazed and amazing in the world.  
 Be amazed that God goes with you.  
 Be amazed that the Holy One is Rock, Safety, and Trust.  
 Be amazed that you reflect the image of God.  
 Be amazing in your love of neighbor,  
 Be amazing in your hope for the world,  
 and be amazing in your faith in the presence of the Holy One at work in you, through  
 you, and with you.

**\*Congregational Response**

No. 312

**AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.**

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**Today's Liturgy:** *Through the Midst: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

**Today's Ushers:** Thank you, Kris Franks and Margo Paramski for serving as ushers this morning.

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Joan Schroeder 2/3, Nila Grahl 2/7

**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; Roberta Young, navigating seizures; 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; and Jack Doyle's sister, Nancy, experiencing serious health issues.

Shirley Haley would like to thank everyone for their prayers. She is doing well in healing from surgery. She really appreciated the card from all of us.

### **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.

**The MYLO group** each year purchases the devotional booklet "These Days" for the members and friends of Millburn Church. Please pick up your copy found on the welcome table or on the rack by the information board in Lauren Hall.

**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!

**Women's Retreat** - This year's women's retreat is Friday, May 2nd evening and all day on Saturday. It's all about a spa! There is a signup sheet in Lauren's Hall on the bulletin board. The cost will be less than \$50. There are often laughs, and even tears, as people have really opened up. It's a great time to get to know each other better! Reach out to Nan if you have any questions.

**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:**

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

**Chili Cook-off** – February 2<sup>nd</sup> , after worship service

**Women's Retreat** – Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup> evening and all day Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>