

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

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 16, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Compassion in Action: Rescue

Announcements

Greetings and Words of Welcome

*Opening Hymn Of the Father's Love Begotten (Of Eternal Love Begotten) No. 104

1 Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
Christ is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he!
Of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

2 O ye heights of heaven, sing praises;
angels and archangels sing!
And on earth let all the faithful
now your joyous anthems ring,
ev'ry tongue Christ's name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore!

3 Christ, to thee with God Creator,
and O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

***Call to Worship (Adapted from Psalm 1)**

One: Happy are those who delight in the law of the Holy One. Meditate on God's word day and night.

Many: Our Sovereign God watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

One: Happy are those who delight in the law of the Holy One. Plant yourself like a tree and yield good fruit in due season.

Many: Our Sovereign God watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

One: Happy are those who delight in the law of the Holy One. Prosper in all that you do according to kingdom measures.

Many: Our Sovereign God watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

***Prayer of Confession**

Abiding God, you come near to us. We give thanks that you do not turn away from us when our lives reflect messiness, ungraciousness, and complacency. Take us deeper, O God, and help us to confront what needs to be known, addressed, and changed within us, our community, and our world. Forgive us and free us from guilt and shame so that we might embrace a life of accountability and transformation for the glory of God and for the hope of humanity. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

Good creation of God, the Holy One has begun a good work in you and will see it through to completion. You have power to transform and grace to enter the newness of life. God is near and comes down with us. Receive God's mercy, forgiveness, and grace as the gift that has been given. It is available, yours, and enough.

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

Children's Time

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading (NRSV)

Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Sermon

Blessed Are the...

Rev. Miranda Moeller

We Respond to God’s Word

*Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

No. 517

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest;
take away the love of sinning,
alpha and omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,

glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish then thy new creation,
 pure and spotless let us be;
 let us see thy great salvation
 perfectly restored in thee;
 changed from glory into glory,
 till in heaven we take our place,
 till we cast our crowns before thee,
 lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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, you have planted generosity in our hearts. Receive our gifts as part of your redemptive work to save the world from inequities, pain, and despair. May our resources be renewed and magnified so that all needs are met and your name be praised. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace!

No.546

1 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace first taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

*Commission and Blessing

As you go into the world, remember that
Embodied Love has come down to join you.
God's grace has come down to redeem you.
Spirit has come down to empower and equip you
To also come down with the world
In need of hope and encouragement
In want of witness and public proclamation
That God is good and still down with us..

*Congregational Response

No. 312

AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

Today's Liturgy: *Down with Them: Service Prayers for the Sixth 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, Margie Petroff and Lisa Horist for serving as ushers this morning.

Celebrating Birthdays: James Grandos 2/17, Donna Zradicka 2/22

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; Carol Rossi's sister-in-law, Pat, and niece, Eileen, both of whom are navigating cancer; and prayers for Bob Tschannen's journey with Alzheimer's.

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. 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.

Convergence Survey - Please follow the link to take the survey monkey from Convergence. Convergence is the consulting firm we will be working with to help us determine where we are going as a church. The first step in their process is this survey. The survey is anonymous, so please be as honest as possible. Click on the link or type it in and you should be ready to go.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MillburnUCCParticipant>

The Mission Committee is having a food drive during the month of February to benefit the Lake Villa Township Food Bank. You can put your food donations in the basket that will be on the altar. Here is the list of items needed:

Canned fruit

Packaged side dishes

Cereal/Oatmeal

Paper towels

Jelly

Canned meals (such as Spaghetti-O's, etc.)

Kleenex

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.

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 — 3rd Friday of the month

UPCOMING EVENTS AT MILLBURN CHURCH:

Council Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month

Spring Rummage Sale - Friday, April 4th and Saturday April 5th

Women's Retreat – Friday May 2nd evening and all day Saturday, May 3rd