

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

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany February 23, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Compassion in Action: Rescue

Announcements

Greetings and Words of Welcome

*Opening Hymn

In this Very Room

No. 295

In this very room there's quite enough love for one like me,
and in this very room there's quite enough joy for one like me,
and there's quite enough hope
and quite enough power to chase away any gloom, for Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this
very room

In this very room there's quite enough love for all of us
and in this very room there's quite enough joy for all of us;
and there's quite enough hope, And quite enough power to chase away any gloom,
for Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.

In this very room there's quite enough love for all the world,
and in this very room there's quite enough joy for all the world;
and there's quite enough hope,
and quite enough power to chase away any gloom, for Jesus, Lord Jesus,
is in this very room.

*Call to Worship (Adapted from Psalm 37)

One: Come, Beloved, and release your frenzied fear.

Many: We come, trusting the enduring promises of the Holy One.

One: Let meekness rise as strength of soul.

Many: May our promised inheritance of love shine brightly all around.

One: May it strengthen us in our waiting and our working.

Many: May all that is evil wither, and all that is good grow to fullness.

One: May the grace of God rest on us all as we gather.

*Prayer of Confession

God of the grand reversal, we confess our easy attachment to revenge in its many forms. Instead of interrupting violence, it has been easy to practice it in word and deed. It has been easy to worship the lie of scarcity instead of trusting your promise of abundance. By this, the way of the world has worked into our hearts and minds. Forgive us and free us from ourselves. Equip us anew with an outpouring of Your love. By this of You, form us into channels of grace. Deepen our love, expand our generosity, and mold us and the world with Your abundant mercy. Let the heart and mind of Christ take up residence in us anew. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

I have good news! The Holy One, Love Almighty, interrupts our missteps and misdeeds, our distractions and our detours. In Christ Jesus, God has shown us what forgiving love has already done and continues to do. It heals, it mends, and makes a new chapter possible. This is the forgiving power of God that embraces you and me, here and now. It is the good news! You can trust it with your life. Thanks be to God!

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

Oh, Be Swift to Love

Children's Time

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading (NRSV)

Luke 6:27-38

²⁷ “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.^[a] Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Sermon

Love Our Enemies?

Rev. Miranda Moeller

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other

No. 487

1 Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them or as they may become.

3 Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love, to practice your acceptance until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

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, thank you for pressing Your holy love into the lap of our lives. Bless these gifts we bring that they may be multiplied into a good larger than we can imagine. Also, bless us, that we might live our lives in gratitude, sharing

freely without expectation of return. Through this way of Jesus, stretch our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of Your Holy grace. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

No.631

1 Lift every voice and sing
till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise
high as the listening skies;
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun
of our new day begun,
let us march on, till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod,
bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet, with a steady beat,
have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears have been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past,
till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light;
keep us for ever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;

lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
 shadowed beneath thy hand
 may we for ever stand,
 true to our God, true to our native land.

***Commission and Blessing**

May you be blessed with the courage to interrupt revenge with love.
 May you be strengthened with a gratitude that freely shares with others.
 May you discover again and again the merciful embrace of the Holy One.
 And may the love of God, empower you to help change the world with forgiveness.
 Blessings on you all! Amen and Amen!

***Congregational Response**

No. 312

AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

Today's Liturgy: *A Good Measure: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Year C* 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, Char Myers and Eric Walters for serving as ushers this morning.

Celebrating Birthdays: Robert Tschannen 2/24, Toots Bennett 2/27, Dawn Denman 2/27, Connor Jacobsen 2/28, Laura Dragin 3/1, Mara Tannenberger 3/2

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>

Bernie's Book Bank - Volunteer opportunity April 2nd from 430-6pm, 917 N Shore Drive, Lake Bluff. All ages are welcome. We have space reserved for 10 people, but can expand if we have more interest. Please use this link to register for the event: <https://vhub.at/mucc> It will have you create an account and sign a waiver in order to participate. They would like to see everyone registered by March 24th.

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	Jelly
Packaged side dishes	Canned meals (such as Spaghetti-O's, etc.)
Cereal/Oatmeal	Kleenex
Paper towels	

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

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, March 5th

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

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