



March 19, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
Fourth Sunday in Lent



***Prayer of Meditation before Worship***

*Gracious God, as I continue my Lenten journey among your people this day,  
open my ears to hear clearly our word.*

*Open my eyes that I may clearly see you in others whom I serve.*

*Open my heart that I may faithfully believe.*

*Open my hands and my life to servanthood in your home. Amen.*

\*All who are able are welcome to stand

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

*“Rock of Ages”*

*(Diane Bish)*

**Tower Bell**

**Introit**

What language shall I borrow to thank Thee dearest friend  
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end.  
O make me Thine forever, and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee.

**\*Call to Worship**

Come, let us return to the Lord,

**Our lives have drawn us into the wounds of the world and we ourselves are wounded.**

Come, let us return that the Lord may heal us.

**Our ministries have drawn us into the despair of the world.**

Come, let us return that the Lord may fill us with hope! Let us Worship our God!!

**\*Hymn #358**

*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

*(Beecher)*

**\*Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

**Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world, light of our lives, come to us in the darkness of our souls and heal us. Come as You will, not as we want or expect. Come in the power of the Spirit who brings us to our spiritual knees in thanksgiving for grace, and opens our spiritual eyes to behold Your glory. Accept the Worship we bring and prepare us to live in the world as Your radiant light-bearers.**

**Merciful God, we confess that our seeing is impaired and that we want to be blind to our own sin. We love darkness more than light, for the light of Your Spirit exposes our inmost heart and motives.**

**Your healing is as available to us as it was to the blind man Jesus touched, but rather than receive and rejoice, we clutch our secret sins as blind security. When in expression of Your love a light from heaven flashes around us, we become afraid. When You move in some inexplicable way in our personal lives, in our church, in our Worship, we struggle to get our minds around the event so that we may feel in control.**

**We confess it may well be that we are afraid: afraid of the blinding light of your power, afraid of what You might ask of us, afraid of what you might do through us!**

**Forgive us we pray, and take the blindness from our eyes. It is in Jesus' name we pray.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the Good News! If we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Thanks be to God! Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

*(Creatorex)*

**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.**



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

**CONTACTS**

Phone 859-431-1818  
Email stjohsucc@stjohsuccnewport.org  
Website www.stjohsuccnewport.org  
Facebook St. John's United Church of Christ-Newport, KY

**PROGRAM**

Coffee Fellowship Time Fellowship Hall (L.L.) 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Sanctuary 10:00 a.m.  
Infant, Toddler, Preschool & School Age Child Care South Hallway 9:30 a.m.

**CHURCH STAFF**

**POSITION**

Settled Pastor  
Pastor of Visitation  
Director Of Music/Organist  
Associate Director of Music  
Office Administrator  
Director of Communication & Outreach  
Financial Administrator

**PERSON**

Barry Bordenkircher  
John Robson  
Michael Sullivan  
Dobin Park  
Kelli Taylor  
Kyle Taylor  
Chris Baker

**CONTACT**

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Kelli.Taylor@stjohsuccnewport.org  
Kyle.Taylor@stjohsuccnewport.org  
Financialadmin@stjohsuccnewport.org

**CHURCH LEADERS**

**PERSON**

Jan Knepshield  
Carol Fickenscher  
Carolyn Garriott  
Chuck Hawkins

**POSITION**

Church President  
Church Vice President  
Church Secretary  
Church Treasurer

**CONTACT**

(H) 859-261-2567 (C) 859-912-2563  
(H) 859-635-4638  
(C) 859-801-0067  
Hawkins@NKU.EDU

**Church Office Hours**

Monday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Closed  
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Thursday Closed  
Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Calls will be answered off-site on days when the office is closed.

**Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning**

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Tom Williams

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Bertie Jo Tuerpe

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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**This Week**

- Sunday, March 19:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/One Great Hour of Sharing
- Monday, March 20:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, March 21:** 6:30 a.m. East Row Garden Club  
7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
- Thursday, March 23:** 7:00 p.m.– 8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, March 25:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
- Sunday, March 26:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Scripture From the Poetry: Responsorial Psalm based on Psalm 23**

You are my shepherd, O God,  
I need nothing more;  
**you bring me to rest in quiet places,  
to pools of living water you lead me,  
and there you revive my soul.  
Guide us and guard us, O God.**

You guide me in right pathways,  
as you have promised;  
**even in dark valleys, you guard my steps;  
your visible strength heartens me.  
Guide us and guard us, O God.**

You prepare a banquet for me  
in the face of my enemies,  
**you welcome me as your honored guest.  
Guide us and guard us, O God.**

The oil of gladness is poured on my head,  
my cup of blessings overflows;  
**your goodness and kindness never leave me,  
your house is my home forever.  
Guide us and guard us, O God.**

**Children's Chat**

Laura Haas

**Scripture From the Letters of Paul: Ephesians 5:8-14**

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

## Anthem

### *“The Old Rugged Cross”*

*(Mary McDonald)*

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross  
the emblem of suffering and shame.  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
and exchange it some day for a crown.

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
Such a wonderful beauty I see;  
For t'was on that old cross, Jesus suffered and died  
To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;  
It's shame and reproach gladly bear.  
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away,  
Where His glory forever I'll share.

## Scripture From the Gospels: John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

## Hearing Assistance

We have wireless receivers for the hearing impaired which you may obtain from an usher.

## Pastoral Care Notice

If a pastoral care need arises, please contact the church office at (859) 431-1818 and we will get a message to Pastor Marty or John Robson to contact you.

## In Our Prayers

Norma Biery, Barry Bordenkircher, Judy Eads, Betty Jo Haas, Donna & Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Chuck Hawkins, Pam Maloney, Carol & Henry Marksberry, Gayle McAtee, Family of Gregg Runge, Char Scholl, Bill Seibert, Bruce Shay, Ed Von Strohe, Bonnie Walter, Family of Robert Walters, Wendy Watts, John & Peggy Westlund

## Continued Prayerful Support

Homebound members. Those in assisted living and nursing homes. Rev. Barry Bordenkircher Church Leadership Team, Ministry Teams, and all our church leaders.

## Homebound Member of the Week

Our homebound member of the week is Henry Marksberry. Henry’s birthday is Sunday, March 26th. Take a moment this week to send him a card or give him a call as we celebrate Henry as our member of the week!

His address is:

Henry Marksberry  
Seasons of Alexandria Room 155  
7341 East Alexanria Pike  
Alexandria, KY 41001

## Infant, Toddler, Preschool and School Age Child Care is Available on Sunday Mornings

We have childcare workers available for our infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school age children. Children can be dropped off starting at 9:30 a.m. downstairs in the Youth Room. You can ask any usher for assistance or information about this program.

## Audio Recordings of Our Sunday Services

Did you miss a Sunday service or would like to hear one over again? You can get a CD audio recording of any service each week down on the table located at the North Lobby entrance. The recordings are separated by date so just look for the service you want to hear and take it home.

## COVID Update

Just a reminder that if you become infected with the COVID virus, please let the church office know so that we can notify anyone that you may have been in contact with at that time. Thank you and everyone please stay safe.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

St. John's UCC will participate in One Great Hour of Sharing by collecting a special offering today. Please consider giving to this special project.



Don't forget to invite your family, friends and neighbors

## **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

**Palm Sunday, April 2nd**

Join in the parade of palms and our Palm Sunday service at 10:00 am or just come for the hunt at 11:15 am! Don't forget to bring your Easter basket!!



### **Easter Candy Needed**

St. John's will be hosting our Annual Easter Egg Hunt after Sunday worship on Palm Sunday April 2nd. If you would like to contribute small, individually-wrapped candies to be used for filling eggs, you may drop them off in the church office during regular hours or on Sunday morning in the boxes located at each entrance. The deadline to drop off candy is Wednesday, March 29th. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!!



### **The Chosen**

**THE CHOSEN:** Join us for a Saturday morning coffee and discussion group. Starting after Easter, Saturday April 15 - Saturday May 27 from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. we'll be watching and discussing Season 3 of The Chosen. This is a multi-season series about the life of Christ. It's free and currently has the attention of millions of people! If you haven't seen The Chosen you may watch seasons 1-3 for free, simply tune into the Angel app on your TV or watch online. In April we will begin our discussion group with Season 3. If you have questions or want to talk about this idea contact Laura Haas or Vicki Kennedy. You may reach out to the church office for any assistance.

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

**Sermon**

"Trust Your Gut"

Pastor Marty Westermeyer

**\*Hymn #480**

*"Open My Eyes, That I May See"*

**Gathering Together in Prayer**

**Joys & Concerns – Silent Prayer – Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Response**

Sing Twice



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

**Offertory Invitation**

We who have been anointed with God’s love and set apart for discipleship are challenged to be the body of Christ in the world. We are privileged to share the resources entrusted to each of us, that together we may provide leadership and empowerment for the church’s mission. Our offerings support the ministries we offer here and our outreach to many places where needs are greater than our own.

**Offertory**

*“Jesus Paid It All”*

*(Grape)*

I hear the Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small!  
Child of weakness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all.”  
Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I Where by Thy grace to claim.  
I’ll wash my garments white In the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb.

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete,  
“Jesus died my soul to save,” My lips shall still repeat.

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost Amen**

*(Old 100<sup>th</sup>)*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Take what we have, O God, and use it for Your work. Take our gifts to fund ministry and mission. Take our hearts that our love for others might become more real. Take our hands that we might do things that make a real difference in our world. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #502**

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

*(Slane)*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Response (All sing)**

**O how He loves you and me, O how He loves you and me;  
He gave His life, what more could He give?  
O how He loves you, O how He loves me,  
O how He loves you and me.**

**Postlude**

*“Love Divine All Loves Excelling”*

*(Gordon Young)*

†  
**GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD                      THANKS BE TO GOD!**

**Welcome!**

Welcome to this house of prayer and worship!  
We pray that your experience of worship will deepen your faith and prepare you for the week ahead. We believe God’s Spirit is present in our listening to the Word and our response of discipleship. In our greeting of one another we sense the presence of Christ. May you know His grace and peace today!

**Please sign the guest register when it comes to your seat.**



Flowers in church today are provided by the Sanctuary Flower Fund.  
If you or anyone you know would benefit from the beauty and joy of the arrangement, please feel free to take them.

Open flower dates are March 26th, April 2nd, 16th, 23rd & 30th  
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.