



January 14, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday after Epiphany



Thought for the Day before Worship
Beyond apparent truth lie deep truths that
confront even the prejudice of the biblical writers and translators.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”* (A. Whitworth)

Tower Bell

Introit

Holy God, we praise your name; Sovereign God, we
bow before you; All on earth your scepter claim,
all the heavenly hosts adore you. Infinite your
vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

***Call to Worship**

Hear our prayers, immortal God, invisible Other; utterly beyond what we can know.

Know your people gathered for Worship; your people who have seen enough, heard enough, experienced enough; to Worship and to know your presence among us.

"In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,"

We nonetheless know you, glorious light made flesh; know you have chosen to be inaccessible no more.

God of those who have testified through the years; God of our foreparents in the faith,

God of our past, God of our present and our future,

We praise your steadfast love

This day, and all the days of our lives.

Let us Worship our God!!

***Hymn #68** *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”* (Nettleton)

***Prayer of Confession**
Our God, we confess to settling - settling for the obvious - the easy - the superficial - settling for not just unnoticed but unacknowledged contradictions in the very character of God.

We confess to not looking beyond the comfortable harmony that masks a deeper discord. We confess to prioritizing harmony and thus making difficult the noticing and receiving of the gifts of discord. Guide us through the difficult, the discomforting, the inconvenient, toward the truth.

This we pray in the name of Jesus, whose own way was difficult, discomforting, inconvenient, and more true than anything we can know. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**
Hear Paul’s words when he writes: *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price.”* Christ mercifully paid the price for our sin. Through him we may approach God with our temples made clean. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News! **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.**

***Gloria Patri** (Greateorex)

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.

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.



CONTACTS

Phone	859-431-1818	
Email	stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org	
Website	www.stjohnsuccnewport.org	
Facebook	St. John’s United Church of Christ–Newport, KY	
PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME
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	PERSON	CONTACT
Designated Pastor	J. Martin Westermeyer	Shaman4@zoomtown.com
Pastor of Visitation	John Robson	Jmarrobson@gmail.com
Director Of Music/Organist	Michael Sullivan	Michael.Sullivan@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Associate Director of Music	Dobin Park	Pianist0587@gmail.com
Office Administrator	Kelli Taylor	Kelli.Taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Director of Communication & Outreach	Kyle Taylor	Kyle.Taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Financial Administrator	Chris Baker	Financialadmin@stjohnsuccnewport.org

CHURCH LEADERS

PERSON	POSITION	CONTACT
Kyle Taylor	Church President	859-394-5256
David Stamm	Church Vice President	859-322-2426
Pat Goins	Church Secretary	859-250-2830
Vickie Kennedy	Church Treasurer	859-653-2630 text or call

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: Vickie Grey Kennedy

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Laura Haas & Tom Williams

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

- Sunday, January 14:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Monday, January 15:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Church Office Closed
7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, January 16:** 6:30 p.m. East Row Garden Club Meeting
7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
- Wednesday, January 17:** 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. NKSNA
- Thursday, January 18:** 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, January 20:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
- Sunday, January 21:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Guest Speaker-
Rev. Melissa Stephens from Washington UCC

Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

From the Gospels: John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

Anthem

“My Tribute”

(Crouch/arr. Tom Fettke)

(Seoyong Lee - solo)

How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me?
Things so undeserved, yet you give to prove your love for me.
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude;
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee.

To God be the glory for the things He has done.
With His blood He has saved me, with His power He has raised me,
To God be the glory for the things He has done.

Just let me live my life, let it be pleasing, Lord, to Thee;
And should I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary.

From the History of the Old Testament: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’ ” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” Then the LORD said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

Sermon “Could God Be Calling Me?” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Affirmation of Faith:** UCC Statement of Faith, Second General Synod, 1959

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father,

and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being,

creates man in his own image

and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will

declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,

he has come to us and shared our common lot,

conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

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 Pastor John Robson to contact you.

In Our Prayers

Joan Berkemeyer, Norma Biery, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Donna & Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Chuck Hawkins, Karen Liden, Family of Carol Marksberry, Henry Marksberry, Family of Barbara Runge, Bill Seibert, Ed Von Strohe, Bonnie Walter, Wendy Watts & Betty Webster

Continued Prayerful Support

Homebound members.

Those in assisted living and nursing homes.

Church Leadership Team, Ministry Teams, and all our church leaders.

Designated Pastor Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Pastor of Visitation John Robson

Homebound Member of the Week

Our homebound member of the week is Walt Dauzenberg. Walt’s birthday is Sunday, January 21st. Take a moment this week to send him a card or give him a call as we celebrate Walt as our member of the week!

His address is:

Walt Dauzenberg

Rosedale Green

4250 Glenn Avenue

Covington, KY 41015

Children’s Activity Bags

Activity bags for the children are located at each entrance of the church. Feel free to pick up a bag for your child (children) to work on during the worship service. When the service is done just drop the bags off at each exit so that we may replenish the bags for the following week.

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.

Choral Christmas Concert DVD’s

DVD’s of the Choral Christmas Concert are available on the table located at the North Lobby entrance.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY SPECIAL OFFERING BENEFITING THE
BRIGHTON CENTER**

On Sunday, January 14, 2024, St. John's will participate in a special offering to help our local organization The Brighton Center. In the spirit of Dr. King's work, the church wanted to take a moment to help individuals in need by performing a service to benefit them. Brighton Center is a local organization here in Newport that lives out Dr. King's message of helping individuals in need with jobs, finances, resources, and social services to name a few. You will find a special offering envelope in your bulletin on Sunday, January 7th and 14th. Please place this envelope in the offering plate on January 14th when this special offering will be collected. We appreciate your consideration for donations to this cause.

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS
(Howard Thurman, adapted)

“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and the princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music of the heart... And to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas begins.”

CHURCH BOOK CLUB - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Saturday January 27, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.-church parlor
The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 14TH

January 15th: Darlene Knepshield
January 16th: Pam Maloney
January 20th: Keith Daniels

GUEST SPEAKER NEXT SUNDAY

Rev. Melissa Stephens from Washington UCC will be our guest speaker next Sunday and Pastor Marty will be our Liturgist for the day. Please join us as we welcome Melissa to St. John's.

He bestows upon us his holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues and races.

He calls us into his church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be his servants in the service of men,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
his presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto him. Amen.

*Hymn #559

“Here I Am, Lord”

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

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me,
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Mission Moment

Laura Haas

Offertory Invitation

God does not require sacrifices and burnt offerings, but in our delight to do the will of God we bring our best in thanksgiving and praise. We rejoice in the abundant gifts of God, which enable us to share. Let us generously support our mutual efforts to be faithful to the One who is faithful to us.

Offertory

“More Love, O Christ, To Thee”

(Lanny Lanford)

More Love To Thee, O Christ, More Love To Thee!
Hear Thou The Prayer I Make On Bended Knee.
This Is My Earnest Plea: More Love, O Christ, To Thee;
More Love To Thee, More Love To Thee!

Once Earthly Joy I Craved, Sought Peace And Rest;
Now Thee Alone I Seek, Give What Is Best.
This All My Prayer Shall Be: More Love, O Christ To Thee;
More Love To Thee, More Love To Thee!

Give me a faithful heart, likeness to Thee,
that each departing day henceforth may see
Some work of love begun, some deed of kindness done,
Some wanderer sought and won, more love to Thee.

Then Shall My Latest Breath Whisper Thy Praise;
This Be The Parting Cry My Heart Shall Raise;
This Still Its Prayer Shall Be: More Love, O Christ To Thee;
More Love To Thee, More Love To Thee!

*Doxology

(Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***Prayer of Dedication**
O God, you nourish us by the outpouring of your love. You strengthen us with your reviving Spirit. Our bodies are sustained by your goodness and power. You are the source of every good act we perform and of every talent we possess. These gifts are but a portion of what you give us in abundance. Accept them as signs of our thanksgiving, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Hymn #350

“The Summons”

(Kelvingrove)

*Benediction

*Choral Response

Postlude

“Trumpet Tune”

(William Boyce)

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 in honor and celebration of
Darlene Knepshield’s birthday on Monday, January 15th.

Love,
Jan



Open flower dates are January 21st & 28th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

JANUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CANCELLED

The Leadership Team has decided to cancel the January 2024 Congregational Meeting due to lack of Business. The 2024 Budget will be available in late January/early February for the congregation to review for those who are interested. Our next congregational meeting will occur in October of 2024. Please reach out to a member of the Leadership Team if there are any questions or contact the church office if you would like a copy of the budget.

LITURGISTS WANTED

Pastor Marty is looking for individuals who are interested in serving as liturgist for our Sunday Worship Service. The responsibilities of being a liturgist include reading a couple of scriptures, the call to worship and the offertory invitation. If you would like to serve in this role, please reach out to Pastor Marty or Kelli in the church office.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed Monday, January 15, 2024 to observe
Martin Luther King Jr. Day.