



January 28, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



Thought for the Day before Worship

Consider the word authority: “author-” is its prefix.
What brings authority is “authoring” some word or action
for which you take personal responsibility.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Prelude in G”

(Paul Benoit)

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**

We gather to Worship God who alone can heal us and make us whole.

Open our hearts that you may transform our lives with your healing touch.

We gather to Worship God who alone speaks the word that calls forth life.

Open our minds that you may transform us with your authoritative Word.

We gather to Worship God in spirit and in truth.

Open our spirits that you may transform us by your powerful Spirit.

Let us Worship our God!!

***Hymn #87**

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

(Madrid)

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

Intervening God, through Jesus the Christ your will and purpose for our lives was made known. We praise you for being with us as your divine plan unfolds in each life and in the life of the church. We experience your presence in both ordinary moments of work and Worship in which your Spirit sustains and guides us, and in the extraordinary moments in which surprising acts reveal your will and intention for your people today as they did through Jesus long ago. We are often amazed, and ever humbled, by Christ’s faithful love and awesome deeds. And we ask, “What do you want with us Jesus of Nazareth?” May we hear, and heed, your response.

Holy One, you established your realm anew on earth in the advent of Jesus. By your authority vested in him and his obedience to your purpose, the power of evil was overcome, sin and death were defeated. Yet we live as though this were not so, as though human power were supreme, as though we could save ourselves. O God, we confess the fears that grip us, and the credence we give to false prophets and worldly wisdom. As members of this society, we are both the oppressed and the oppressors, and greatly in need of your deliverance.

Forgive our sin, and set us free from all that would hold us in bondage. It is in the name of Jesus, that we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the Good News! Paul reminds us, “*There is one God ... from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist ... If one loves God, one is known by God.*” As we confess our sins before God, God is faithful and just, and in Jesus, through whom we exist, God forgives us our sin. 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 Law of the Old Testament: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ Then the LORD replied to me, ‘They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’



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: David Stamm

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

Sunday, January 28: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, January 29: 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Tuesday, January 30: 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

Thursday, February 1: 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, February 3: 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting

Sunday, February 4: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Communion Sunday

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 111

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever.

Anthem

“How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings”

(*Samuel Liddle*)

How lovely are they dwellings, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longeth, yea fainteth, for the courts of the Lord:

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house, and the swallow a nes
where she may lay her young. Even thine altars O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

O Lord of Hosts, hear my prayers. I would rather be a door

Keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.

From the Gospels: Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Sermon

“Discovery”

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Affirmation of Faith:** from A New Zealand Prayer Book
You, O God, are supreme and holy.
 You create our world and give us life.
 Your purpose overarches everything we do.
 You have always been with us.
 You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous,
 good beyond all measure.
 You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
 your love for us in Jesus Christ,
 who lived and died and rose again.
 You are with us now.
 You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
 You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
 You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We Worship you. Amen.

*Hymn #473

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

(Converse)

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.



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, Betty Hasse, Chuck Hawkins, Henry Marksberry, 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 Marcia Schmidt. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Marcia as our member of the week!
Her address is:
Marcia Schmidt
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.

“SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN’S

Join St. John’s on Sunday, February 11th as we celebrate Super Bowl Sunday with our “Souper” Bowl Event. This event will be a two-part event consisting of a food drive and luncheon following Sunday Worship.

Before worship, we will be hosting a canned food drive benefiting the Washington UCC Food Pantry to help individuals in need in our local area. We are asking everyone to bring in some form of canned food item (soup, fruit, vegetable, etc.) and place them in the baskets located at either entrance of the Sanctuary.

Then, join us following worship in Fellowship Hall where we will be hosting a light luncheon of soup, sandwiches, and desserts. Carol Thompson and Julie Ollier are leading this luncheon and will be providing some delicious recipes but they can always use our help. If you would like to help, sign-up sheets for food will be located at the entrances of the sanctuary of the church. Please sign up if you would like to bring a dessert tor just come for the luncheon. Reservations are also welcomed, and you will find forms in the bulletin to do so or you may contact the church office. Forms can be placed in the offering plates on Sunday morning.

We hope you can join us as we gather for worship and fellowship while also helping our local community with this fun event. If there are any questions please contact the church office.

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

St. John’s is pleased to announce that we were able to collect **\$760.00** to benefit Brighton Center to support their needs in helping others. This collection will go to help individuals in the local area who are facing difficult times. This donation will be able to help the Brighton Center continue their work which is a continuation of the work Dr. King envisioned. Again, thank you to everyone that participated in this and know that you made a difference in our community.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The 2023 end of year contribution statements were mailed out on Thursday, January 25th. If you did not receive a financial statement and feel that you should have, you can contact our financial administrator Chris Baker at: Financialadmin@stjohnsuccnewport.org or you can call the church office at (859) 431-1818 option 3 for Kelli or option 7 for Chris for more information.

Response

Sing Twice

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.

Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no quo-ni-am bo-nus.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Al-le-lu-ia!

Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no, Al-le-lu-ia!

Offertory Invitation

What offering can we bring to God? All our wealth is not enough to express our praise. How shall we share in tasks beyond our ability to accomplish? Yet God chooses us and our gifts to make a difference in the world. God employs our weakness to shame the strong. God prospers our work and witness, transforming the world, beginning with us. Let us share in the joy of giving.

Offertory

“You Raise Me Up” (Tom Fettke)

Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain, Leave to your
God to order and provide; In ev-'ry change He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul! The waves and winds still
know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary; When troubles
come and my heart burdened be; Then I am
still and wait here in the silence Until You
come and sit awhile with me.

You raise me
up so I can stand on mountains. You raise me
up to walk on stormy seas. I am
strong when I am on Your shoulders. You raise me
up to more than I can be.

There is no life, no life without its
hunger. Each restless heart beats so imperfectly
But when You come, and I am filled with
wonder, Sometimes I think I glimpse eternity.

***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**
Delivering God, it is your will that all people should be free from the evil forces in this world who exert power and authority unjustly, making your people captive to the fall-out of endless war, to poverty, hunger, homelessness, and desperation. We dedicate our gifts now for your saving purposes, believing in the authority, name and person of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Hymn #106** *“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”* *(Coronation)*

***Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude *“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”* *(Hal Hopson)*



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
Carol & Jim Thompson’s 63rd wedding anniversary.
Happy Anniversary!!



Love,
Julie, Doug, Rachelle, Jeff, Parker, Courtney and Griffin.

Open flower dates are February 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 28TH

January 30th: Connie Haas

ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 28TH

January 28th: Jim & Carol Thompson (63 years)

YOGA CLASSES AT ST. JOHN'S

A group from the East Row will begin holding a yoga class here at St. John's beginning Thursday, January 25th from 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and will continue to meet every Thursday. They would love for members of our church to join them. The class will be a chair, gentle, yin combo. Tell your friends, bring a friend and join in on the fun.