



March 3, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday in Lent



Thought for the Day before Worship

The Season of Lent is a time of self-examination and obedient expectations for the church as Easter approaches. Therefore, let us enter the sanctuary praying humbly, yet expectantly. For God's Spirit to be with us.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"Lord I Want To Be A Christian"

(Diane Bish)

Tower Bell

Introit

Oh, sacred head now wounded, with grief, and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns thine only crown:
O sacred head what glory; what bliss till now was thine;
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

***Call to Worship: based on Psalm 19:1, 7-10, 14**

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

The commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.

More to be desired are they than gold, sweeter also than honey.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts.

Be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock, and our redeemer.

Let us together Worship our God!!

***Hymn #569**

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

(CWM Rhondda)

*Prayer of Confession

God of life, of all life and of each life, we lay our lives before you.
We open our lives to you, from whom nothing is hidden.

You are before us: you are behind.

You are in the light and in the darkness.

You see our most public face.

You know the secret thought of every heart.

We bring the faith that is in us, and the doubt.

We bring the joy that is in us, and the sorrow.

We bring the pride that is in us, and the shame.

We bring the knowledge that is in us, and the ignorance.

We bring the hope that is in us, and the fear.

God gives us grace to walk in the way of Christ.

Guide us by your Spirit, strengthen us against all evil.

Have mercy upon us, O God. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News! God is not only the lawgiver, but Redeemer, and will cleanse us from the secret sins that have escaped our own attention. 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.**

From the Books of the Law: Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

"You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

CONTACTS

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

PROGRAM

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

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

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: Diana Stamm

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Bertie Jo Tuerpe & David Stamm

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

- Sunday, March 3:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Monday, March 4:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, March 5:** 6:30 p.m. East Row Historic Foundation Meeting
7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
- Wednesday, March 6:** 1:00 p.m. Mid-Week Lenten Service
6:00 p.m. Mid-Week Lenten Service
- Thursday, March 7 :** 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, March 9:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
- Sunday, March 10:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Daylight Saving Time Begins

“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. “You shall not murder. “You shall not commit adultery. “You shall not steal. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Childrens Chat

Steve Twehues

From the Letters of Paul: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Anthem

“I Will Sing of the Mercies”

(Howard Whitaker)

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing,
With my mouth will I make known Thy faithfulness to all generations.

From the Gospels: John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, with the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Sermon "The Divine Anger of Christ" Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Hymn #677** "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" (Stuttgart)

Baptism of Hank Eugene Sester

- **Welcome**
- **Address**
- **Questions of the Candidates**
- **Congregational Assent**

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

- Affirmation of Faith

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

- Prayer of Baptism

- Act of Baptism

- Prayer for the Baptized

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, Ernie Brady Sr., Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Donna & Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Betty Hasse, Chuck Hawkins, David Hoffmann, 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. Marcia's birthday is Sunday, March 10th. 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 Room 308-1

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.

ALL CHURCH QUESTIONNAIRE

As part of the Transitional Minister/Interim Ministry role, Pastor Marty is asking all members to fill out a questionnaire. It is quite comprehensive (and long) and may seem overwhelming. It is very important that **each individual member** fill one out to gather information to assist the committee in creating a Church Profile in the future. The deadline to return the questionnaire is Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact Pastor Marty. Pick up a packet as you leave today.

**Pastor Marty wanted to let folks know he is aware that the first four questions of the questionnaire were missing from last week's packet. It was his mistake not noticing that they were on the back page of the original cover page. He re-wrote the cover page for St. John's UCC. The missing questions are available at each church entrance/exit. Pastor Marty thanks you for your understanding.

LUNCH BUNCH
Wednesday, March 13th
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Time change
Bring your own lunch
Drinks and dessert provided

WELCOME REV. DAVID LONG-HIGGINS

On Sunday, March 10th Rev. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister for the Heartland Conference, will be delivering the message for the day and Pastor Marty will be the Liturgist. Join us as we welcome Rev. David Long-Higgins to St. John's.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Remember to set your clocks one hour ahead on **Sunday, March 10th** for daylight savings time.

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

Often, we have come to the well of God's love, and there has been living water to quench our thirst. Sometimes we have needed others to draw the water for us. Sometimes it is we who offer it to them. The world is full of thirsty people. Through our offerings, we provide wells and water carriers and assurance of God's love in the place where we are and far beyond our own reach.

Offertory

"Set Me as a Seal upon Your Heart"

(Anna Laura Page)

Set me as a seal upon Your heart,
O God, for love is as strong as death.
The waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
Set me as a seal upon Your heart.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a strong spirit within me.
Cast me not away, from Your presence
Restore unto me the joy of salvation.

Uphold me with Your Spirit,
Then I'll teach Your ways,
and sinners will be converted to You.

*Doxology

(Old 100th)

**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**

***Prayer of Dedication**

We present our tithes and offerings to you, gracious God, asking you to turn both gifts and givers evermore faithfully to the task of proclaiming the good news of the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn #443**

“Trust and Obey”
(vs. 1 & 4)

(Trust and Obey)

***Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude
Marchand)

“Alla Breve and Fugue”

(Louis

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 at the pulpit are in honor of the baptism of Hank Eugene Sester placed by Julie Croley.



Open flower dates are March 10th, 17th & 24th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.



Flowers at the baptismal font are in honor of the baptism of Hank Eugene Sester placed by his parents, Shane and Abby Sester.



Open flower dates are March 10th, 17th & 24th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 3RD

March 5th: Christine Schwalbach
March 9th: Elise Faller

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.

On **Sunday, March 10, 2024** St. John’s UCC will participate in One Great Hour of Sharing by collecting a special offering on that day. Please consider giving to this special project.

MID-WEEK LENTEN PROGRAMS

The Mid-Week Lenten programs/Services were to be a means for Pastor Marty to talk with folks on three different occasions about St. John’s: the past, the present and the future. The situation is: they are not being attended at 1:00 pm at all and sparsely at the 6:00 pm time. To better utilize Pastor Marty’s time and to encourage attendance, there will be sign-up sheets for the remaining Wednesdays (3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27) at the front of the Sanctuary. There are 8-10 slots for either time. (Pastor Marty realizes there will be bigger group on Lunch Bunch day, 3/13/24 at 1:00 pm).

It is important that Pastor Marty has the opportunity to talk with all members of the congregation. If everybody can’t be accommodated during Lent, he will schedule alternate times after Easter.

WASHINGTON UCC NEEDS YOUR HELP

Washington UCC is in need of men’s gently used clothing. If you have any closets to clean out and have something to donate, please bring it to church and we will take it over to Washington UCC for you. Thanks for your help with this project.