



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



Thought for the Day before Worship

The Season of Lent is a time of self-examination and obedient expectation 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

"If You Will Trust in God to Guide You"

(Gordon Young)

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: from Psalm 107:1, 4-7, 10-15

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Some wandered, far and near, and cried out for help – which came from God.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Some sat in darkness; some rebelled; they cried out for help – which came from God.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

We come now to Worship the God who saves through love.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let us Worship our God!!

*Hymn #93

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

(Nettleton)

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

As we follow your Son to Jerusalem, O God, we thank you for loving us: even us who consistently and perversely stray from that singular path. In times when we've turned our eyes everywhere but to you, you remind us to look up to where you have lifted your Son on the cross, to bring us new life. For this gift, far beyond what we dare to ask or hope to deserve, we offer humble thanks and focused praise. No matter how long the road, or how far we may deviate from the path, we trust in your unfailing presence and care; under the Mercy who is Christ our Lord.

If the sin had a name, we've committed it – as you well know, all-suffering God. We know, in your grace, that you have set before us a clear path to follow your Son, but we persist in leaving that road, enticed by the promised pleasures of the undergrowth, far happier to pursue our own devices and desires than to stay beside Jesus.

Forgive us, we pray, for our destructive straying. Hold your Son's cross ever before us, that we may learn anew the height and depth and breadth of your love for us; under the mercy of him who died that we might live, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the Good News! God who is rich in mercy, through great love given to us, brought us to life with Christ even when we were dead in our sins; it is by the grace of God we are saved. 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.**

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 107:1-3, 12-22

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Their hearts were bowed down with hard labor;
they fell down, with no one to help.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;
he brought them out of darkness and gloom,
and broke their bonds apart.



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

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

PERSON

J. Martin Westermeyer
John Robson
Michael Sullivan
Dobin Park
Kelli Taylor
Kyle Taylor
Chris Baker

CONTACT

Shaman4@zoomtown.com
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Kelli.Taylor@stjohsuccnewport.org
Kyle.Taylor@stjohsuccnewport.org
Financialadmin@stjohsuccnewport.org

CHURCH LEADERS

PERSON

Kyle Taylor
David Stamm
Pat Goins
Vickie Kennedy

POSITION

Church President
Church Vice President
Church Secretary
Church Treasurer

CONTACT

859-394-5256
859-322-2426
859-250-2830
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. Dr. David Long-Higgins

Liturgist: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

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, March 10:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Monday, March 11:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, March 12:** 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
- Wednesday, March 13:** 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch
1:00 p.m. Mid-Week Lenten Service
6:00 p.m. Mid-Week Lenten Service
- Thursday, March 14:** 9:00 a.m.-Noon Food Pantry
3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, March 16:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
- Sunday, March 17:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Lunch Bunch

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

Book Club

Saturday, March 23rd
1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
Church Parlor
Twelve Extraordinary Women
by John F MacArthur

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
For he shatters the doors of bronze
and cuts in two the bars of iron.

Some were sick through their sinful ways
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;
they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;
he sent out his word and healed them
and delivered them from destruction.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Childrens Chat

Laura Haas

Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else, but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

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.

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.

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.

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 Lesson: John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Sermon "Love Forms a Room" Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins

*Hymn #429 "If You Will Trust in God to Guide You" (Neumark)

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.

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, Carol Strong, 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 Peggy Westlund. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Peggy as our member of the week!

Her address is:

Peggy Westlund

Emerald Trace on Turkeyfoot

3802 Turkeyfoot Road

Elsmere, KY 41018

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.

Online Worship Services Return

After a slight pause, St. John’s online video worship services have returned. You can view the services through our church website www.stjohnsuccnewport.org, our Church’s Facebook Page or YouTube Channel (just search our church’s name on Facebook/YouTube) and through the Constant Contact weekly email, (just click the online worship button at the bottom of the page). Please be patient as we are working out any technical issues that may arise. Hope you enjoy the services!

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 10TH

March 10th: Marcia Schmidt

March 11th: Laura Haas

March 13th: Gary Wagner

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.

Today St. John's UCC will participate in One Great Hour of Sharing by collecting a special offering. 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.

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.

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

"Take Up Your Cross"

(Lloyd Larson)

"Take up your cross," the Savior said, "if you would my disciple be; take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me."

Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm; His strength shall bear your spirit up, and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down; for only they who bear the cross may hope to win the glorious crown.

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

"Take up your cross," the Savior said, "and humbly follow me."

***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**

For your goodness and mercy that overflow through our lives and equip us to share, we give thanks. No sacrifice can match your generosity; no offering is adequate to express our gratitude. We bring ourselves with our gifts, that all may be consecrated anew to your service. Amen.

***Hymn #264**

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

(Rathbun)

***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

“Recessional”

(Gordon Young)



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 17th & 24th

To reserve your special date, please call the church office.



WELCOME REV. DR. DAVID LONG-HIGGINS

Today we welcome Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister for the Heartland Conference. Rev Long-Higgins 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.

**Biographical Information for Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins,
Conference Minister
Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ**



The Rev. Dr. Dave Long-Higgins serves as the Conference Minister for the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ serving the 322 UCC congregations in Ohio, Northern Kentucky and West Virginia. In that role, Dave has been called to strengthen the covenantal collaboration between congregations, associations, institutions of higher education, health and human service ministries, ecumenical and interfaith engagements, as well as partnerships local and global. Dave’s passion is to see individuals and churches grow in their sense of the alive presence of God and all that this calls forth to be signs of Christ-love in the world, so that all may flourish.

It is out of this commitment toward the full flourishing of every human being and the whole creation, that Pastor Dave comes to the work of weaving personal commitments with public engagements. Toward that end he believes God calls followers of Jesus Christ to a movement toward the margins so that those normally overlooked or discounted can find themselves welcomed, placed at the center, and given space to thrive.

Dave has served in a wide variety of capacities throughout the United Church of Christ including service on the Wider Church Ministries Board, the Common Global Ministries Board of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, and on the former UCC Executive Council. He serves as a member of the Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ, the Board of Directors of United Church Homes, the Board of Trustees of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and as Chair of the Governing Board of the Ohio Council of Churches.

Dave is a graduate of Heidelberg University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and music (violin performance). His Master of Divinity was earned at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in New Brighton, Minnesota. He was honored with the conferral of the Doctor of Humane Letters by Heidelberg University. He is also a graduate of the Wellstreams Spiritual Direction Program of the Spirituality Network of Columbus (Ohio). Prior to beginning his role with the Conference, Dave was a parish pastor for over 30 years. Together with his wife, Beth, who is also an ordained UCC clergy person Dave has served two congregations, Bethany UCC, in Louisville, Kentucky, and David’s United Church of Christ in Canal Winchester, Ohio.

Dave and Beth have two adult children, Andrew and Hannah. When not on the ministry trail Dave enjoys playing violin and guitar, bicycling, travel, writing prayer poems, watching movies, and photography.