



May 5, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Sixth Sunday of Easter



Thought for the Day before Worship

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”
We have been befriended by God. Are we now ready to befriend the world?

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome

Prelude

Meditation On “Bread of Life”

(Jack C. Goode)

Tower Bell

Introit

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can feel the brush of angel wings,
I see glory on each face,
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

***Call to Worship: based on Psalm 98**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

We will sing praises to the Lord with lyre and the sound of the horn.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

We will sing you a new song, O God, for the marvelous things you have done.

Let us Worship our God!!

***Hymn #87**

“Come Christians Join to Sing”

(Madrid)

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession**
Divine Spirit, you have created us and redeemed us, sustained us and renewed us. You have struck a spark within us and your holy breath is blowing it into flame. You set us afire to burn with your presence in communities of need and of excess, communities of oppression and of power, communities of peace and of violence. You do not wait for us to be ready, for us to be wise, for us to be experienced, for us to be mature. You call us now to astounding acts of grace and justice. Divine Spirit; grant us the courage to say, "Yes."

Victorious God, we confess that we are more concerned with
- our own victories than with yours;
- our own success more than yours;
- our own power more than yours.
We confess that we don't want to lose anything that is comfortable and familiar, even if it would bring your victory of peace and justice closer. Turn us to see where our behavior is burdensome to others, and let us accept the forgiveness that would empower us to become obedient. It is in the name and spirit of Jesus that we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace - done responsively**
Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child.
For this is the love of God, that we keep God's commandments.
By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love the Lord and obey God's commandments.
For this is the love of God, that we keep God's commandments.
For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith.
For this is the love of God, that we keep God's commandments.
Who overcomes the world? Those who believe that Jesus is the Christ.
For this is the love of God, that we keep God's commandments.
And God's commandments are not burdensome. Thanks be to God!

***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.



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	Dr. 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: Pastor John Robson

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dr. Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: David Stamm & Bertie Jo Tuerpe

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

- Sunday, May 5:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Communion Sunday
- Monday, May 6:** 6:30 p.m. East Row Historic Foundation Meeting
7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, May 7:** 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
- Thursday, May 9:** 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, May 11:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
10:00 a.m. Leadership Team Meeting
- Sunday, May 12:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Mother’s Day

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.
The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.
Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.
Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

From Letters to the Entire Church: 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

Anthem

“Great, Great Morning”

(Joseph Martin)

My Lord, what a morning when the stars begin to fall.
It will be a great, great morning; it will come without a warning
when we hear that trumpet sound.
Though we may not know the hour, we know Christ will come in power
and His trumpet blast will shake the ground.
All the saints will rise and be taken to the skies.
They will meet King Jesus in the air.
In-a that great getting up morning; fare thee well.
It’s gonna be a getting up morning,
Great day, the righteous marching, great day!
I’ll fly away, O glory! I’ll fly away, in the morning,
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by.
In the twinkling of an eye, we will mount up to the sky.
Alleluia, we shall all be changed.
It will be a great, great morning, it will come without a warning.
O I will fly, I’ll fly away.

From the Gospels: John 15:9-17
As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Sermon

“Just Friends”

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

*Hymn #424

“How Can I Keep From Singing”

(Endless Song)

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
Judy Adams, Joan Berkemeyer, Norma Biery, Family of Walter Dauzenberg, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Betty Hasse, Family of Donna Hamilton, Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Betty Hasse, Chuck Hawkins, Henry Marksberry, Bill Seibert, Ed Von Strohe, Bonnie Walter & Wendy Watts

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 Robert Hasse. Robert’s birthday is Friday, May 10th. Take a moment this week to send him a card or give him a call as we celebrate Robert as our member of the week!
His address is:
Robert Hasse
500 Lakeview Drive #103
Wilder, KY 41071

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 Video 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). Hope you enjoy the services!

MOTHER’S DAY

To celebrate Mother’s Day next Sunday, flowers will be available for every woman, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and mother-to-be at the end of the service. See you on Sunday, May 12th.

CHURCH SPRING OUTDOOR CLEANING

In preparation for the East Row Garden Club Walk on June 1st and 2nd (as well as helping the outdoor appearance of the church), the church will be hosting a spring outdoor cleaning on Saturday May 18th beginning at 10:00 a.m. We will be working together to work on tidying up the walkways and entrances to the church around the building. If you are interested in helping with this project, please sign up on the forms at church or contact the church office. We look forward to working together to make the church more beautiful.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Please join us on Sunday, May 19th as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. Remember to wear something red that day to celebrate Pentecost!

MEMORIAL DAY ROLL OF REMEMBRANCE

If you are a church member and would like to add a member of your family to update our Military Roll of Remembrance for Memorial Day 2024, please contact the church office. The deadline for names is **Wednesday, May 22nd**. Our Memorial Day Service will be held on **Sunday, May, 26th**.

Please note that names featured in previous years will be included again, and there is no need to re-submit them. Thank you!

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

During worship on Sunday, June 9th St. John’s will be recognizing the graduates in our midst. If you know of someone graduating from High School, College, University or another academic institution, please contact the church office to let us know. Last day to submit names is **Friday, May 24th**. Thank you!

COMMUNION CUP DISPOSAL

Please use trash receptacles located at each exit for disposal of communion cups.

Response

**And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of God’s hand.**

Offertory Invitation

Praise God with sacrificial offerings. Return thanks to the Creator, who gives us life and breath. Manifest God’s love for the world through your sharing. Reaffirm your baptism as you dedicate your time and talents with the material gifts God has loaned to you.

Offertory

“Bread of Life”

(Raney)

At this table, Lord, we lay our burdens down;
at your feet we humbly kneel to pray.
At the foot of the cross, we contemplate the cost
as we share this feast today.

Lord, break your bread of life for me;
feed my hunger, set my spirit free;
pour out your grace on me.
Lord, fill my cup from the fountain of your love,
Open my eyes that I might see;
Break your bread of life, Lord, for me.

Lord, we renew our strength;
from this cup we drink of boundless grace.
Teach us, Lord, how to share the bounty
of your care when we leave this holy place.

We worship you, Lord of might and majesty.
We pray for your guidance from above.
We remember the sacrifice on Calvary,
We thank you for your never ending love.

***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**

**You have given us your love, O God, and so we give our love to you and to the world.
You have given us all we have, and so we return a part of it to you. You have given us
friendship, and so we go from this place as friends of all we meet. We pray in the
name of Christ. Amen.**

Celebrating God’s Word in Sacrament

Communion is Open to ALL: saint and sinner, lost and found, believer and seeker.
We partake of the bread together to symbolize our unity and community as God’s people.
We shall partake of the cup individually to symbolize our solitariness
as we each stand alone before our God

***Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy universal Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Invitation

Eucharistic Prayer

Consecration of the Elements

Partaking of the Lord's Supper

As is our tradition, the Elements of Communion are held until all are served
and partake at the direction of the Pastor.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)**

Eternal God, you have called your people from the east and west and north and south to eat at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will.
Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

***Hymn #425** *“Blessed Assurance Jesus Is Mine”* *(Bunessan)*

***Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude: *“Psalm XIX”* *(Benedetto Marcello)*

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 May 26th & June 2nd, 9th, 23rd & 30th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 5TH
May 10th: Robert Hasse & Alison Morris

LUNCH BUNCH

There will be no meeting of the Lunch Bunch for the month of May.
We hope to see you next month when we get together in June.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for Donna Hamilton will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 here at St. John’s. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the service will follow at 11:00 a.m.
A small reception for family and friends will follow in Fellowship Hall.

