



February 23, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Seventh Sunday After Epiphany



Prayer of Meditation before Worship

Loving God, lead us to take such delight in you that our thoughts and desires become attuned to your will. Teach us the ways of trust and commitment, so that we can face with confidence those times of trouble and distress. Reveal to us your purpose and design, so often hid from us in preoccupation with immediate concerns. Open us to care as you have cared for us.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Prelude on “St. Denio”

(Austin Lovelace)

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**

Come near to the One in whom we can trust: God will give us the desires of our hearts.

God has provided for us day by day and preserves us in the midst of life's difficulties.

Dwell together in the security God offers and do not fret about the world's standards.

We would be still before the majesty of God and wait patiently for the Spirit's leading.

Open yourselves, that God may equip you to love, to forgive, and to give.

We seek to respond to the God who loves us by loving as we wish to be loved.

Let us Worship our loving God.

***Hymn #48**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

(St. Denio)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**
Lord of Life, you have called us here to Worship you in spirit and in truth.
We have received so many of your kind gifts:
- forgiveness for the sins we commit,
- compassion for the pain we endure,
- hope for the years ahead.

May we have the humility to bow before you in thankfulness. Gracious and merciful Lord, we have come to you in this time of Worship as broken individuals. Dreams of what we could become frighten us. The demands of our faith tire us. The anger of our hostile world enrages us. We have hidden from your perfect love which can take us through these difficult days.
Let your grace embrace us as we seek to reinvest our lives in you.
Restore our dreams as visions of hope.
Remind us of your demands as joyous service.
Replace our anger with an outflowing of compassion.
In all of this, assure us of your abiding presence among us all. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**
Hear the Good News! God is kind, even to the ungrateful and the selfish. Receive God’s forgiveness, that you may leave behind the image of dust, with its hatred, judgement, and revenge. God seeks to implant in us the image of heaven, empowering us to love our enemies, bless those who curse us, and pray for those who abuse us. Because God loves us, we are enabled to treat others as we wish to be treated. 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 Books of the Law: Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say



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: Chuck Hawkins

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dr. Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Wendy Watts

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

Sunday, February 23: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, February 24: 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Tuesday, February 25: 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

Thursday, February 27: 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class-Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, March 1: 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting

Sunday, March 2: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Communion Sunday

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GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD!

to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.’

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.
Trust in the Lord and do good;
live in the land and enjoy security.
Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will make your vindication shine like the light
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.
Refrain from anger and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.
Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.
But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.
The Lord helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked and saves them
because they take refuge in him.



Anthem

“We Are More Than Conquerors”

(Mark Hayes)

We are more than conquerors, we are more than conquerors
We are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us.

For I’m convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything in creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ!

Children be strong in the Lord, be strong in the strength of God’s power.
For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,
but the rulers, and the powers, and the darkness, and the evil of this world.

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand. And having done everything, lift up
you head and then stand. Now stand, stand, stand now stand!

We are more than conquerors, we are more than conquerors though Jesus Christ!.

Scripture Lesson: Luke 6:27-38

“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Sermon

“Love, Bless and Pray”

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.**

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 Barbara Coppage, Yvonne Daniels, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Betty Hasse, Chuck Hawkins, Gayle McAtee, Carol Schoulthies, Ralph Schoulthies, Chuck Shay, Ed Von Strohe, Jim Thompson, Bonnie Walter, Wendy Watts, & Marty Westermeyer

Weekly Prayer List for Northern Kentucky UCC Cluster

St. Mark UCC; Latonia
Rachel Wirrig

St. John UCC; Covington
Jim Hill

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 Norma Biery. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Norma as our member of the week!

Her address is:

Norma Biery
Fields of Florence Room 333
212 Main Street
Florence, KY 41042

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

You can view our online video Sunday worship 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!

Top Ten List of Scriptures about Love:
in no particular order

- God is love. (1 John 4:8)
- We love because God first loved us. (1 John 4:19)
- God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5)
- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. (Deuteronomy 6:5)
- Love your neighbor as yourself. (Leviticus 19:18)
- For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. (John 3:16)
- Love one another. Just as I have loved you (Jesus said), you also should love one another. (John 13:34)
- By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:35)
- Maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)
- Faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)

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.
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 #344

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

(Assam)

Gathering Together in Prayer
Joys and 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
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.

God has favored us beyond our ability to appreciate and has fed us even when we knew no hunger. Our Creator has been our refuge amid dangers we did not discern and has saved us from the hell our poor choices have produced. How will we express our thanks?

“All the Way My Savior Leads Me” (Mary McDonald)

All the way my Savior leads me,
Cheers each winding path I tread,
Gives me grace for every trial,
Feeds me with the living Bread.
Though my weary steps may falter
And my soul athirst may be,
Gushing from the Rock before me,
Lo! A spring of joy I see;

*Doxology

(Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

*Prayer of Dedication

With these offerings we would extend your love, O God, to those who have not experienced its healing power. May hatred be overcome and enemies turned from their evil intent. May the joy we know as we give, flow out to those who benefit from our gifts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

***Hymn #405**

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” (Solid Rock)

***Benediction**

*Choral Response

*Postlude

“St. Anthony Choral” (Haydn/Brahms)



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 provided by the church.
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 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.