



March 30, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday in Lent



Prayer of Meditation before Worship

*O God of gentleness and power, who blesses us with summer mist and winter sun,
we gather together on this One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday as
a visible expression of our ministry of reconciliation.*

*Free us from the bonds of care and dread. Fill us with the spirit of generosity. Help us to weave
and build and work and share with unbounded joy and unrelenting diligence. Nudge us with your
unfailing compassion. Prod us toward increased understanding.*

*Keep us as active ambassadors until all people experience the power of your love and grace.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Rock of Ages”

(Diane Bish)

Tower Bell

Introit

If you will trust in God to guide you,
and hope in God through all your ways.
God will give strength what-e'er betide you,
and bear you through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that will not move.

***Call to Worship:** Based on Isaiah 40:28-31

Brothers and sisters in Christ, have you not heard? Our God is the everlasting God, the
Creator of the ends of the earth.

God does not faint or grow weary; God's understanding is unsearchable.

God gives power to the faint and strength to the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted.

But those who wait for God shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings
as eagles.

They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Come, let us praise God, who fashions and sustains all life!

*Hymn #356 “I Will Sing of My Redeemer” (Hyfrydol)

***Prayer of Confession** (done responsively)
Let us seek the forgiveness and mercy of God. God of mercy and God of love, if we are to live more faithfully today and tomorrow, we need to be forgiven for the blunders we have already made. And so, for all our faults that we remember, and all the mistakes we have forgotten,
We ask your forgiveness, O God.
For the laziness that keeps our bodies from being strong; for the passions and greed that cause us to forget you; for not trying hard enough to do what we know is right, and for being too cowardly to stand up for your truth;
We ask your forgiveness, O God.
For thinking so much about ourselves that we do not think of what we might do for others; for times when we have hurt another, and times we have been too careless to be kind,
We ask your forgiveness, O God.
God of all grace, we do not ask for forgiveness alone. We want to be better than we have been. Help us, therefore, O God, to remember Jesus, who gave his body, mind and soul for God to use;
We ask your forgiveness, O God.
We remember the strength of Jesus that can make us strong; we remember the bravery of Jesus that can make us brave; we remember the truth in Jesus that can make us true;
Help us to be like Jesus, O God.
Redeeming God, help us to remember all that we have prayed for and to trust in you to answer all our prayers, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**
Hear the Good News! Through the grace of God, we are forgiven. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are made anew, assured that in the days ahead, we will be more than we have been in hours past. Thanks be to God for this inexpressible gift.
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.



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.

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: Rose Wendling

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dr. Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Shirley Rice

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

- Sunday, March 30:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/One Great Hour of Sharing
- Monday, March 31:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, April 1:** 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
7:00 p.m. East Row Historic Foundation Meeting
- Thursday, April 3:** 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class-Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, April 5:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Pause for Lent
- Sunday, April 6:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Communion Sunday

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

From the Major Prophets of the Old Testament: Jeremiah 18:1-6

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the LORD came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

From the Letters of Paul: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Anthem

“Softly and Tenderly”
(Jean Nutgrass - soloist)

(Craig Coutney)

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He’s waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

Come home, come home,
You who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies,
Mercies for you and for me?

Oh, for the wonderful love He has promised,
Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me.

From the Gospels of the New Testament: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

Sermon “Our Need to Be Remade” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Affirmation of Faith:** A New Creed, United Church of Canada, 1980

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

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

Weekly Prayer List for Northern Kentucky UCC Cluster

All Cluster Churches

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

Her address is:

Gayle McAtee

Highland Spring of Ft. Thomas Room 2110
960 Highland Avenue
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075

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!

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 30TH

March 30th: Mike Hanson
April 5th: Chase Coppage & Diana Stamm

ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 30TH

March 30th: Carol & Ralph Schoulthies (62 years)



ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.

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, refugees, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

On Sunday, March 30, 2025 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.

PAUSE FOR LENT

Saturday, April 5th
Saturday, April 12th
Saturday, April 19th

Discussion Group will meet from 10-11am in the church parlor

LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

12:00 p.m.-2:00p.m.

Bring Your Own Lunch

Drinks & Desserts Provided

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Hymn #371

"Our Father, We Have Wandered"

(Passion Chorale)

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

(sing twice)



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

"I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked" (Geoffrey O' Hara)
(Sang Bin Park - soloist)

I walked today where Jesus walked, in days of long ago;
I wandered down each path He knew, with reverent step and slow.
Those little lanes, they have not changed, a sweet peace fills the air.
I walked today where Jesus walked, and felt His presence there.

My pathway led through Bethlehem, ah memories ever sweet,
the little hills of Galilee that knew those childish feet;
The Mount of Olives hallowed scenes that Jesus knew before;
I heard the mighty Jordon roll, as in the days of yore.

I knelt today where Jesus knelt, where all alone He prayed;
the Garden of Gethsemane - my heart felt unafraid!
I picked my heavy burden up, and with Him by my side,
I climbed the Hill of Calvary, where on the Cross He died!

I walked today where Jesus walked, and felt Him close to me.

Doxology

**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**

(Old 100th)

*Prayer of Dedication

O God, as we bring our tithes, gifts and this One Great Hour of Sharing offering before you, we are mindful of the story of the prodigal. We are all prodigals, so easily forgetting your enduring love and care. Remind us to turn to you in times of doubt and trouble. Remind us to join with others as we express what it means to be a family of faith in our global village. Deflect us from thoughts of resentment and anger. Point us toward the joy of faithful living, that in our deeds your love is revealed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn #422**

“Amazing Grace!”

(New Britain)

***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

“Paean”

(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.



The greenery at the pulpit and baptismal font are provided by the church.

Open flower dates are April 6th & 27th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.