

October 1, 2023, 10:30 a.m. 18th Sunday After Pentecost

First United Methodist Church
Of Newton

## Order of Worship

(\*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE

"Adagio for Strings" (Barber)

Henry Repp

**GREETING** 

Kathleen Meredith

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Evelyn Cornwell

Today, let us be called to worship God and also to look at our own actions.

Let us look at how we can share forgiveness and the love of Jesus Christ with those who persecute us.

Help us today, Lord, to see the power of your grace and love in all we say and do.

Let us be living examples of the good news of Jesus Christ! Amen.

\*HYMN

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

UMH 549

\*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**Evelyn Cornwell** 

Merciful God, your Son commanded us to love one another and not just those who love us, but our enemies as well. This is an almost incomprehensible task. How do we love those who persecute us, who ridicule us, who make us feel inferior? This is always a struggle, but you are there to help us understand just how to do this, you who are the source of  $agape^{**}$ , a love that is undeserved, gracious, and sacrificial. We pray for the ability to follow this command from your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM "O, Jesus, I Have Promised (Catherwood) Choir

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Kathleen Meredith

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER

Chancel Choir

**SCRIPTURE READING** 

Evelyn Cornwell

Luke 6:27-38 (NLT)

<sup>27</sup> "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. <sup>28</sup> Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. <sup>30</sup> Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

\*\*agape: [ah]-[GAH]-[pay]

<sup>32</sup> "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! <sup>33</sup> And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! <sup>34</sup> And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

<sup>35</sup> "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. <sup>36</sup> You must be compassionate, just

as your Father is compassionate.

<sup>37</sup> "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God for this Word.

SERMON "Love Your Enemies...But How?" Kathleen Meredith

OFFERING Henry Repp

You may leave your offering in the plate in the narthex or scan one of the QR codes on the back of this bulletin to make your offering electronically using PayPal or Tithe.ly.

\*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) Evelyn Cornwell Lord Jesus, help us to be generous as we follow your

Lord Jesus, help us to be generous as we follow your example. May we hold our possessions lightly even as we hold close the people you call us to serve. And now, receive these, our offerings, as an expression of our love for you and our commitment to your kingdom's purposes. Amen.

\*HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" UMH 384

\*BENEDICTION Kathleen Meredith

POSTLUDE "Toccata on Amazing Grace" (Pardini) Henry Repp

## This Week's Schedule

Monday, Oct 2 10 Chair Yoga (HH) Tuesday, Oct 3 10-1 Life With Joy (HH)

6 Hypnosis for Health

Wednesday, Oct 4 10-3 Life With Joy (HH)

6 Potluck Supper (HH)

Thursday, Oct 5 10-1 Life With Joy (HH)

6 Theology on Tap (Angry Erik)

7 Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, Oct 7 7:30 am-1 SCYO Auditions

(HH/Media Center)

9-2 Treasures of Hope

Sunday, Oct 8 9 Joy Fellowship (HH)

Sunday School (1B) 10:30 Sanctuary Service

11-4 Newton Fall Festival

6-8 From Jesus to Christ Video, Dinner & Discussion

video, Dimici & Discussion

Tithe.ly



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## **Today's Worship Leaders**

Certified Lay Servant
Liturgist
Director of Music/Organist
Greeter
Camera Operator
Soundboard Operator

Kathleen Meredith Evelyn Cornwell Henry Repp Fred Fox Jen Phlegar Jay Morrison

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