

November 19, 2023, 10:30 a.m. 25th Sunday After Pentecost

First United Methodist Church of Newton 111 Ryerson Avenue, Newton NJ

Order of Worship

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE GREETING Christie Spriggs

Rev. Todd Lattig Kathleen Meredith

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

We lift up ourselves to you, O God, longing for a glimpse of your grace.

We watch for you...and wait,

trying to keep awake and aware, trying not to fall asleep,

trying not to miss your presence, trying not to miss our very lives.

Today, we come to you awake clothed in faith, decked out in love, wearing hope for all to see.

Come and meet us here, O God, in your mercy and your grace. Amen.

*HYMN "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" UMH 150

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Kathleen Meredith

Holy One, have mercy on us. When we cannot take any more of this world, we know we must turn to you. When our souls have had their fill of trouble and unease, we seek your protection. We come to you in faith and love, in the hope of your salvation, now and always. Amen.

ANTHEM "Be Still My Soul" (Jobe) Kathleen Meredith

MISSION MOMENT: The Weekend Bag Program Costello Family

COMMUNITY PRAYER Rev. Lattig

KIDS ROCK CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Lattig

SCRIPTURE READING Kathleen Meredith

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

¹⁶ "The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of

silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money.

master's money.

19 "After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. 20 The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.'

²¹ "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

²² "The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.'

²³ "The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

²⁴ "Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.'

knew I harvested crops I didn't plant and gathered crops I didn't cultivate, ²⁷ why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.'

²⁸ "Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

Thanks be to God for this Word.

SERMON **JESUS WARNS: "Faith Over Safety"** Rev. Lattig OFFERTORY Christie Spriggs

Please proceed up the center aisle to place your offering in the plate 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)

Kathleen Meredith

Gracious God, you have filled our lives with the protection of faith, the guidance of love, and the hope of a salvation without end. Take our lives, Holy One — our time, our talent, and our treasure — and use them to encourage the hopeless, to build up the broken, and to heal the wounded souls in our world. Amen.

*HYMN

"Together We Serve"

TFWS 2175

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lattig

POSTLUDE

Christie Spriggs

This Week's Schedule

Monday, Nov 20

10-11 Chair Yoga (HH)

11:30-12:30 LWJ Yoga (HH)

7 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Svc. at Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, Nov 21

10-1 Life With Joy (HH)

10-1 Manna House Food Pren

** Deadline for December Newsletter **

Wednesday, Nov 22

10-3 Life With Joy (HH)

6 Potluck Supper (HH) HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Thursday, Nov 23

9-2 Treasures of Hope

Saturday, Nov 25 Sunday, Nov 26

9 Joy Fellowship (HH) Sunday School (1B)

10:30 Sanctuary Service

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Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor Music Coordinator/Joy Fellowship Liturgist Greeter Camera Operator Soundboard Operator

Rev. Todd Lattig Christie Spriggs Kathleen Meredith **Evelyn Cornwell** Jen Phlegar Jay Morrison