



**December 10, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent**

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

Order of Worship

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE		Christie Spriggs
GREETING		Rev. Todd Lattig
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (Peace)		Shirley Spooner
*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)		Kathleen Meredith
“In the beginning.” “Stay awake.” “The time is coming soon.”		
These words are proclaimed by the prophets through the generations.		
As time moves on, we have forgotten to heed their words.		
But God still offers us another chance to hear and understand.		
Repent, reconnect, prepare —		
Let us return our hearts, minds, and spirits to the purposes of God.		
*HYMN	“People, Look East”	UMH 202
*OPENING PRAYER (unison)		Kathleen Meredith
“Get ready!” we hear. Is this a command? An invitation? A plea? However we hear this call, may we feel the urgency it holds, and respond. Amen.		
ANTHEM	“Advent Hymn” (Nockels)	Chancel Choir
MISSION MOMENT		Rev. Lattig
COMMUNITY PRAYER		Rev. Lattig
CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER		Chancel Choir
KIDS ROCK CHILDREN’S SERMON		Rev. Lattig
SCRIPTURE READING		Kathleen Meredith

Mark 1:1-8

1 This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began ² just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

“Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
and he will prepare your way.

³ He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming!
Clear the road for him!’

⁴ This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. ⁵ All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. ⁶ His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ John announced: “Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!”

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God for this Word.

SERMON

PREPARE: “Get Ready”

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

Eternal God, for all the gifts you have given to each of us, we give praise and thanks. Receive these our gifts and use them to bless and reach others in your name. We pray this in the name of the One whose birth we celebrate — in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

UMH 213

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lattig

POSTLUDE

Christie Spriggs



This Week's Schedule

Monday, Dec 11	10-11 Chair Yoga (HH) 11:30-12:30 Yoga for LWJ (HH)
Tuesday, Dec 12	10-1 Life With Joy (HH)
Wednesday, Dec 13	10-3 Life With Joy (HH) 6 Silly Shirt/White Elephant Potluck Supper (HH)
Thursday, Dec 14	10-1 Life With Joy (HH) 7 Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, Dec 16	9-2 Treasures of Hope
Sunday, Dec. 17	9 Joy Fellowship (HH) Sunday School (1B) 10:30 Sanctuary Service

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Today's Worship Leaders

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

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

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God,
we know that when we offend another,
we offend you.

We are aware that we have often allowed
the shadow of hate to cloud our souls,
hiding the light from our unseeking eyes.
We have said unpleasant and hurtful
things to our brothers and sisters when
they failed to live up to our expectations.
Grant that we might find that spark of
love that ever burns within us, the love
that you have shown to us even when we
failed you.

Fan the embers of that love until it roars
again in flames of love, peace, and
reconciliation.

Forgive us our sin and help us to forgive
those who have sinned against us.

Lead us into new life through your Son
Jesus Christ, who died for the sins of all.

Amen.

(MICHAEL J. O'DONNELL, U.S.A., 20TH
CENT.)