



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday

Order of Worship

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE

Christie Spriggs

GREETING

Rev. Todd Lattig

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lattig

Oh, Mighty One, we come tonight recognizing how often we turn from you!

We are astonished that your love never fails.

Oh, Forgiver, we come here tonight to shout that we need to turn to you!

We are grateful that you always accept us back.

Oh, Cleanser, we are here to have our hearts cleansed by your grace.

We are ready to have our hearts changed into hearts of love. Amen.

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Rev. Lattig

Forgiving God, we come before you with open hearts, seeking your presence in this service. We acknowledge that you understand our humanity and meet us where we are.

We recognize our need for your mercy and forgiveness in this world of challenges and distractions. Help us to let go of our mistakes and find strength in your grace as we face our daily struggles, trying to be who you call us to be. Lord, we ask that you cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits.

We ask for all this in the name of Jesus, who invites us to come as we are. Amen.

*HYMN “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” UMH 269

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) Rev. Heather Morrison Yaden

Holy One, we come before you with broken hearts. There is so much outside us that pushes at us, pulls at us, clamors for our attention, or tries to diminish our dignity. There are also things within us. There are inner forces that drive us. Hurts that curve us in on ourselves and lead us, in turn, to hurt others. We ask that in this season you would open our eyes to the places in our hearts that need healing. Grant that we might see the sharks lurking beneath the surface of our souls. Then, having seen and named them, help us to surrender them into your loving arms.

Have mercy on us, Lord. Forgive us for the places where we know we've come up short and for the sins we can't yet see, so that our hearts might be made clean and our spirits made new. This we ask in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE Rev. Morrison Yaden
 The Lord our God is gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in
 steadfast love.
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.
 Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST Rev. Morrison Yaden
 INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD Rev. Morrison Yaden
 PSALTER Psalm 51:1-17 UMH 785-786
 SCRIPTURE LESSON Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Rev. Morrison Yaden
 GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Rev. Lattig
 This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God for this Word.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD Rev. Lattig
 God does not ask us to feel guilty, but to return to the Lord with
 all our hearts.
**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right
 spirit within me.**
 Christ calls us to be humble, to fast and pray in secret.
Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.
 Examine your hearts. What burdens need to be lifted? What
 trespasses beg for forgiveness?
**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a
 generous spirit. Amen.**

ANTHEM “Lamb of God” (Courtney) Combined Choirs
 SERMON Through the Valley: “Lament and Repentance” Rev. Lattig
 THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES Rev. Morrison Yaden
 HOLY COMMUNION (see insert) Revs. Lattig and Morrison Yaden
 IMPOSITION OF ASHES
 SHARING COMMUNION
 PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Rev. Morrison Yaden
 OFFERTORY Christie Spriggs
 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.

*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

*OFFERING PRAYER (unison)

Rev. Lattig

Gracious God, we have sought recognition for our piety, and taken pride in our giving. Receive these offerings in the spirit of your Son, who taught us to watch our hearts — for where our hearts are, there our treasure will be also. May our treasure be in you, Holy One, and in the welfare of our world. Amen.

*HYMN

“Sanctuary”

TFWS 2164

*BENEDICTION

Revs. Lattig and Morrison Yaden

POSTLUDE

Christie Spriggs

Electronic Giving for First United Methodist Church



Tithe.ly



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Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Newton

Rev. Todd Lattig

Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Newton

Rev. Heather Morrison Yaden

Music Coordinator/Joy Fellowship

Christie Spriggs

Combined Choir

Members of the Newton FUMC Chancel Choir
and the First Presbyterian Church Choir

Greeter

Evelyn Cornwell

Camera Operator

Jen Phlegar

Soundboard Operator

Jay Morrison

First United Methodist Church of Newton

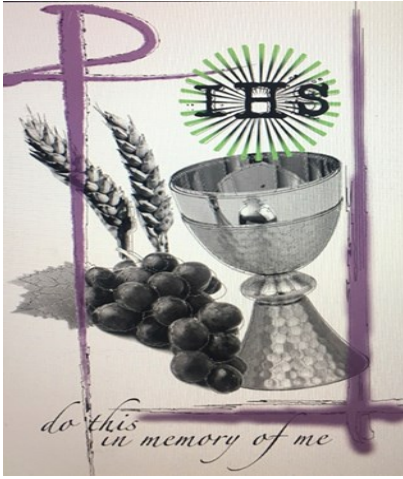
111 Ryerson Avenue

Newton, NJ 07860

973-383-4450

newtonumco7860@gmail.com

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth, you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, giving thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.

