



*Through the Valley:  
"Lament and  
Honesty"*

**February 25, 2024, 10:30 a.m.  
Second Sunday of Lent**

**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 R. Lattig
- \*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively) Kathleen Meredith
- God, if we bare our hearts to you, will you still love us?  
**Help us to feel safe to bare our hearts to you.**  
God, if we trust you, will you never leave us?  
**Strengthen us to not listen to the world of disbelief.**  
God, the pain and challenges are often too great for us to fully experience you.  
**Calm us, as we struggle with the pains of our bodies and this world, to fully seek you.**
- \*HYMN "Trust and Obey" UMH 467
- \*OPENING PRAYER (unison) Kathleen Meredith
- All-knowing God, we approach you with humility and gratitude, acknowledging that you are with us in every moment, both good and bad. Our world often encourages us to hide our struggles, but we ask for the courage to be honest with you. Please help us to come to you with authenticity, knowing that you understand our deepest fears, doubts, and sorrows. Open our hearts to receive your Word and empower us to be transparent with you. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who understands our suffering and intercedes on our behalf. Amen.**
- ANTHEM "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Chancel Choir  
Melinda McCoy-Miller, flute
- COMMUNITY PRAYER Rev. Lattig
- CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER Chancel Choir
- KIDS ROCK CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Lattig
- SCRIPTURE READING Kathleen Meredith
- Job 13:1-13**
- 13** "Look, I have seen all this with my own eyes  
and heard it with my own ears, and now I understand.  
<sup>2</sup> I know as much as you do.  
You are no better than I am.  
<sup>3</sup> As for me, I would speak directly to the Almighty.  
I want to argue my case with God himself.

<sup>4</sup> As for you, you smear me with lies.  
 As physicians, you are worthless quacks.  
<sup>5</sup> If only you could be silent!  
 That's the wisest thing you could do.  
<sup>6</sup> Listen to my charge;  
 pay attention to my arguments.  
<sup>7</sup> "Are you defending God with lies?  
 Do you make your dishonest arguments for his sake?  
<sup>8</sup> Will you slant your testimony in his favor?  
 Will you argue God's case for him?  
<sup>9</sup> What will happen when he finds out what you are doing?  
 Can you fool him as easily as you fool people?  
<sup>10</sup> No, you will be in trouble with him  
 if you secretly slant your testimony in his favor.  
<sup>11</sup> Doesn't his majesty terrify you?  
 Doesn't your fear of him overwhelm you?  
<sup>12</sup> Your platitudes are as valuable as ashes.  
 Your defense is as fragile as a clay pot.  
<sup>13</sup> "Be silent now and leave me alone.  
 Let me speak, and I will face the consequences.

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

**Thanks be to God for this Word.**

SERMON      Through the Valley: "Lament and Honesty"      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)      Karhleen Meredith

**God, you are the provider of every good and perfect gift. We  
 are grateful. We are humbled. We are blessed. Receive these  
 tithes and offerings as an expression of our love, devotion,  
 and gratitude. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

\*HYMN      "Be Still, My Soul"      UMH 534

SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS      Kathleen Meredith

\*BENEDICTION      Rev. Lattig

POSTLUDE      Christie Spriggs

## **This Week's Schedule**

**Monday, Feb 26**

**10 Chair Yoga (HH)**

**11:30 LWJ Yoga (HH)**

**Tuesday, Feb 27**

**10-3 Life With Joy (HH)**

**6 Cub Scouts (HH)**

**6:30 Trustees Mtg ZOOM**

**Wednesday, Feb 28**

**10-3 Life With Joy (HH)**

**6 Potluck Supper**

**Thursday, Feb 29**

**10-3 Life With Joy (HH)**

**Saturday, March 2**

**9-2 Treasures of Hope**

**Sunday, March 3**

**9 Joy Fellowship Service (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 R. Lattig  
Christie Spriggs  
Kathleen Meredith  
Evelyn Cornwell  
Jen Phlegar  
Jay Morrison