

Through the Valley:  
"Lament and  
Surrender"

**March 3, 2024, 10:30 a.m.  
Third 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
- Oh God, you call us to surrender and follow you in all ways.  
**At times, surrendering seems impossible and scary.**  
Oh, Mighty Guide, show us how to surrender, follow, and be brave in this world.  
**Create a path for us to let go of our desires and simply rest in you.**  
Oh, Sovereign God, you never fail to be present with us and yet we may not always believe it.  
**Instill your strength in our minds and bodies to walk this life with you. Amen.**
- \*HYMN “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” UMH 349
- \*OPENING PRAYER (unison) Kathleen Meredith
- Sovereign and loving God, we come to you with open hearts, ready to surrender to your will. Although surrender is hard, still, we desire to emulate Jesus’ example of obedience by acknowledging the weight of our barriers and laying them before you, just as he did. May our surrendering to you be an act of worship that brings glory to your name. Empower us to live lives that reflect your love, grace, and mercy. Amen.**
- ANTHEM “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” 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

## Matthew 26:36-46

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, “Sit here while I go over there to pray.” <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. <sup>38</sup> He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

<sup>39</sup> He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

<sup>40</sup> Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour?” <sup>41</sup> Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!”

<sup>42</sup> Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.” <sup>43</sup> When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open.

<sup>44</sup> So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!”

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

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

SERMON Through the Valley: “Lament and Surrender” Rev. Lattig

HOLY COMMUNION (see insert)

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

**Lord Jesus, thank you for your provision for us in all aspects of our lives. Help us to trust you in ever-deepening ways.**

**And we will praise you always and in all ways. Amen.**

\*HYMN “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” UMH 361

SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS Kathleen Meredith

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Lattig

POSTLUDE Christie Spriggs

# **This Week's Schedule**

<b>Monday, March 4</b>	<b>10 Chair Yoga (HH)</b> <b>11:30 LWJ Yoga (HH)</b> <b>6 Bible Study (Zoom)</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 5</b>	<b>10-3 Life With Joy (HH)</b> <b>6 Hypnosis for Health</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 6</b>	<b>10-3 Life With Joy (HH)</b>
<b>Thursday, March 7</b>	<b>10-3 Life With Joy (HH)</b> <b>6 Theology on Tap (Angry Erik)</b>
<b>Saturday, March 9</b>	<b>9-2 Treasures of Hope</b> <b>8-12:30 SCYO (HH)</b>
<b>Sunday, March 10</b>	<b>9 Joy Fellowship Service (HH)</b> <b>Sunday School (1B)</b> <b>10:30 Sanctuary Service</b>

Tithe.ly



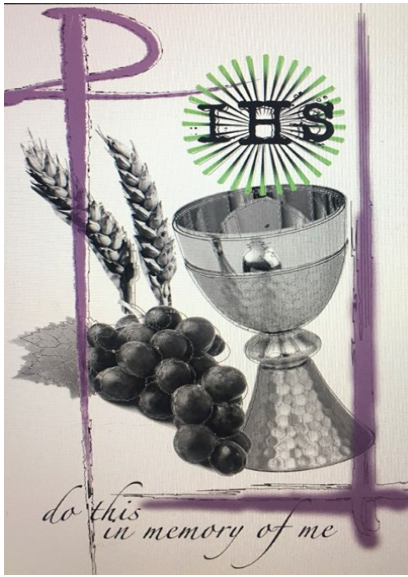
PayPal



## **Today's Worship Leaders**

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

Rev. Todd R. Lattig  
Christie Spriggs  
Kathleen Meredith  
Fred Fox  
Jen Phlegar  
Jay Morrison



Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin to God and one another.

**Merciful God,  
we confess that we have not loved you  
with our whole heart. We have failed  
to be an obedient church. We have not  
done your will; we have broken your  
law; we have rebelled against your  
love; we have not loved our neighbors;  
and we have not heard the cry of the  
needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for  
joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
Glory to God. Amen.**

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.**

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

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

“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 unison 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 Father, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

