

A crown of thorns is positioned on the left side of the image, extending vertically. The thorns are dark brown and sharp, casting shadows on the light brown, textured background. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

Through the Valley:
"Lament and
Community"

**March 10, 2024, 10:30 a.m.
Fourth 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) Evelyn Cornwell

God, there is so much injustice in this world. End the injustice, God.

We trust in your ways, Almighty One.

God, we know you have a vision for humanity, a vision of unity, harmony, and peace. Let this vision become reality.

We need to change our hearts to realize your vision.

God, we need you to change us so we can end injustice.

Work within us so we can be change agents championing justice in a world that desperately needs it. Amen.

*HYMN “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” UMH 117

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) Evelyn Cornwell

Loving Creator, as a community of faith, we gather before you with open hearts, asking for your guidance and inspiration to show your love in the face of hostility and injustice. We cry out to you for a broken world, seeking your comforting presence to strengthen our bonds as a community. Empower us to be agents of transformative love that breaks down walls and embraces diversity. In moments of injustice, may our collective cry in words and actions bring us closer to your vision for humanity. We trust in your loving kindness and we ask for your blessings on us as we seek to do your work in the world. Amen.

ANTHEM “Be Thou My Vision” 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 Evelyn Cornwell

Esther 4:1-5

4 When Mordecai learned about all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on burlap and ashes, and went out into the city, crying with

a loud and bitter wail. ² He went as far as the gate of the palace, for no one was allowed to enter the palace gate while wearing clothes of mourning. ³ And as news of the king's decree reached all the provinces, there was great mourning among the Jews. They fasted, wept, and wailed, and many people lay in burlap and ashes.

⁴ When Queen Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was deeply distressed. She sent clothing to him to replace the burlap, but he refused it. ⁵ Then Esther sent for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been appointed as her attendant. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was troubling him and why he was in mourning.

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

Thanks be to God for this Word.

SERMON Through the Valley: "Lament and Community" 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)

Evelyn Cornwell

Lord God, your generosity overwhelms us. You gave us Jesus to show us your way, teach us your truth, and give us new life. We are grateful beyond expression for your grace and unfailing love. Please receive these offerings as an expression of our devotion and use them to advance your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

*HYMN

"Lift Every Voice and Sing "

UMH 519

SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS

Debbie Seebeck

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lattig

POSTLUDE

Christie Spriggs



This Week's Schedule

Monday, March 11	10 Chair Yoga (HH) 11:30 LWJ Yoga (HH) 6 Bible Study (Zoom)
Tuesday, March 12	10-3 Life With Joy (HH) 5 Manna House Spaghetti Supper 6 Cub Scouts (HH)
Wednesday, March 13	10-3 Life With Joy (HH) 6 Potluck Supper (HH)
Thursday, March 14	10-3 Life With Joy (HH)
Saturday, March 16	9-2 Treasures of Hope 8-12:30 SCYO (HH)
Sunday, March 17	9 Joy Fellowship Service (HH) Sunday School (1B) 10:30 Sanctuary Service

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!

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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
Evelyn Cornwell
Fred Fox
Jen Phlegar
Jay Morrison