

Through the Valley:  
"Lament and Hope"

**March 17, 2024, 10:30 a.m.**  
**Fifth 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, no matter what we are dealing with, you are here among us.

**Your love is steadfast, never ceases, and is always forgiving.**

God, no matter what we are dealing with, you call us to hope and love.

**Your mercies are far-reaching, covering every aspect of our self and being.**

God, no matter what we are dealing with, you always create newness.

**Let us sing in joy for your greatness and fullness in our lives.**

**Amen.**

\*HYMN “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” UMH 140

\*OPENING PRAYER (unison) Kathleen Meredith

**Gracious and merciful God, we come before you in our times of joy and sorrow. Life can be complex and challenging, but we trust in your faithfulness. You are the anchor that keeps us steady in the midst of life’s storms. Help us draw nearer to you in our moments of distress and grant us the strength and courage to face our struggles with grace. We ask this in the name of the one who weeps with us and offers us the promise of a new dawn. Amen.**

ANTHEM “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” 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

## **Lamentations 3:19-24**

<sup>19</sup> The thought of my suffering and homelessness  
is bitter beyond words.

<sup>20</sup> I will never forget this awful time,  
as I grieve over my loss.

21 Yet I still dare to hope  
when I remember this:  
22 The faithful love of the Lord never ends!  
His mercies never cease.  
23 Great is his faithfulness;  
his mercies begin afresh each morning.  
24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance;  
therefore, I will hope in him!"

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

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

SERMON Through the Valley: "Lament and Hope" 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

**Lord, sometimes life can be hard, but you, Lord, are always good! So, it is with joy and gratitude that we offer to you these our tithes and offerings and ask that you use them to further your kingdom here on earth. We rejoice that our gifts will be used to bless others in the name of Jesus. It is in his precious name that we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN "My Hope Is Built" UMH 368

SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS Kathleen Meredith

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Lattig

POSTLUDE Christie Spriggs



## Did you know...?

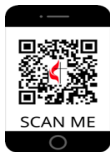
On the altar banner, the color of the drape changes each week: This week's color is **RED**, the color of fire, symbolizing Christian zeal in the ministry and work of the church, as well as the color of blood, symbolizing sacrifice, pointing to the cross and the summons that comes to each of us to lay aside the cluttered accoutrements of our lives.

*Many thanks to Shirley Spooner for all of our beautiful banners.*

## This Week's Schedule

<b>Monday, March 18</b>	<b>10 Chair Yoga (HH)</b> <b>11:30 LWJ Yoga (HH)</b> <b>6 Bible Study (Zoom)</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 19</b>	<b>10-3 Life With Joy (HH)</b> <b>10-1 Manna House Meal Prep/Serve</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 20</b>	<b>10-3 Life With Joy (HH)</b> <b>6:30 Leadership Team Mtg (Zoom)</b>
<b>Thursday, March 21</b>	<b>10-3 Life With Joy (HH)</b>
<b>Saturday, March 23</b>	<b>9-2 Treasures of Hope</b> <b>8-12:30 SCYO (HH)</b>
<b>Sunday, March 24</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> <b>9 Joy Fellowship Service (HH)</b> <b>Sunday School (1B)</b> <b>10:30 Sanctuary Service</b>

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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