



**April 7, 2024, 10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday of Easter**

**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	Kathleen Meredith
*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)	Evelyn Cornwell

It is good for God's people to gather together in unity.

We are here at the invitation of God.

In this place, God's love and grace flow into our lives.

In this place, God's blessings abound.

Praise be to God!

Praise be to God!

*HYMN	"I Need Thee Every Hour"	UMH 397
*OPENING PRAYER (unison)		Evelyn Cornwell

Holy One, we gather with grateful hearts to remember the blessings of your light and love as they flow through our lives each day. In this moment, open our hearts to your Holy Spirit. Open our minds to the truth of your story. Open our hands to welcome the risen Christ among us. And open our eyes to your glory — a glory reflected in the faces around us. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM	"Take My Life, and Let It Be" Melinda McCoy-Miller, flute	Chancel Choir
COMMUNITY PRAYER		Kathleen Meredith
CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER		Chancel Choir
SCRIPTURE READING		Evelyn Cornwell

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁰ As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! ²¹ Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." ²² Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. ²⁵ They told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

²⁶ Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”

²⁸ “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”

³⁰ The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

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

Thanks be to God for this Word.

SPECIAL MUSIC “Thomas’ Song” Christie Spriggs

SERMON “Without a Doubt” Kathleen Meredith

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

Abundant God, we are grateful for all your blessings, especially for the presence of the risen Christ. Bless these gifts, that they may help bring your love and light into our community and our world. Amen.

*HYMN “The Gift of Love” UMH 408

*BENEDICTION Kathleen Meredith

POSTLUDE Christie Spriggs

This Week's Schedule

Monday, April 8

10 Chair Yoga (HH)

11:30 LWJ Yoga (HH)

Tuesday, April 9

10-3 Life With Joy (HH)

5 Manna House Spaghetti Supper

Wednesday, April 10

10-3 Life With Joy (HH)

6 Potluck Supper

Thursday, April 11

10-3 Life With Joy (HH)

Saturday, April 13

9-2 Treasures of Hope

8-12:30 SCYO (HH)

Sunday, April 14

9 Joy Fellowship Service (HH)

Sunday School (1B)

10:30 Sanctuary Service

**Leadership Team meeting immed.
following the 10:30 service**

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Today's Worship Leaders

Certified Lay Servant
Music Coordinator/Joy Fellowship
Liturgist
Greeter
Camera Operator
Soundboard Operator

Kathleen Meredith
Christie Spriggs
Evelyn Cornwell
Fred Fox
Jen Phlegar
Jay Morrison