

# Newtonville United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

*We are delighted that you chose to join us for worship this morning! Mask wearing is now optional. Please continue to wear a mask if you are not vaccinated, or if you are immunocompromised in any way. If you are feeling under the weather in any way, please stay home and take advantage of watching our services on line. Hearing assist devices are available—our ushers will be happy to help you with any needs that arise!*

## Welcome and Announcements

Centering Song: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

\*We Share Christ's Peace (by waving, smiling, sharing the peace sign, or bowing toward our friends)

We are Called to Worship (Feasting on the Word) Pam LaCasio

God does not see as mortals see. We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

**Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

Once we lived in darkness, but now as children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.

**Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

We Join in Song: Hymn #454 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

## Call to Reconciliation

As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illuminated by grace.

## Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our hearts and our thoughts, our motives as well as our actions. We confess that we tend to

judge others and ourselves too much by appearances, by physical graces rather than spiritual graces, by traditional manners rather than spontaneous helpfulness, by announced intentions rather than actual behavior. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News! Though we once were all darkness, now as Christians we are light. Friends, believe the Good News: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**We will live as children of the light for Christ shines in us.**

## Children's Time Sandy Rivenburg

## We Pray Together

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer/Reflection

Pastoral Prayer

## We Pray Together The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## We Offer Our Gifts

\*Doxology #2036 "Give Thanks" / Offertory Prayer

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks, give thanks!

## We Hear the Scripture Reading... 1 Samuel 16:1-13

We Join in Song: Hymn #3008 "Open the Eyes of My Heart"

We Hear the Gospel Reading... John 9:1-41

The Message "The Lord Looks on the Heart" *Nancy Goddard*

We Remember What We Believe and We Affirm A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada UMH #883

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

We Join in Song: Hymn #2173 "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Our Statement of Commitment to Racial Justice

The United Methodist Church proclaims the value of each person as a unique child of God and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons; recognizing that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history, and racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization.

We, as United Methodists, shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large; working collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places.

Blessing

Arise! Shine! For the light of Christ is upon you. Go into the world bearing the fruit of Christ's light so that all might see what is good and right and true; and live as children of the light to the glory of God.

We will love with hope and grace, so that joy may fill our days, like sunshine on a cold winter's day. Amen!

Sending Song: "Companions on the Journey"



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