

Newtonville United Methodist Church

Sunday, September 17, 2023

16th Sunday After Pentecost

We are delighted that you chose to join us for worship this morning! Mask wearing is 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

*We Share Christ's Peace

(by waving, smiling, sharing the peace sign, or bowing toward our friends)

We are Called to Worship Kaylee Spendiff

In sacred times of word, wonder, and awe, in ordinary days of work and play...

In every moment, God is with us.

Whether we are stuck in doubt's mud, or standing on faith's shoreline...

In every place, God is with us.

In those who teach us and those who trouble us; in those who surprise us, and those who forgive us...

In every person, God is with us.

We Join in Song: Hymn 3176 "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"

Opening Prayer

When we look over our shoulders at fear shadowing us today, you go before us into tomorrow, making a path through the sea of yesterday's doubts. When our legs tremble from the effort of standing up for what you hope for all creation, you are at our side, offer your heart's strength. Cloud of Grace, we offer our love to you.

When we turn out hearts into deserts of stony bitterness, you

transform them into oases of joy. When we come up with all sorts of rules for those who come to us seeking to find you, you tear up the list, stretching wide your arms in welcoming grace. Servant of all, we offer our lives to you.

When we would clasp old worries to our hearts, you open our eyes to that hope which paves the path ahead of us. When we spend each day consumed with doubts and fears, you remind us that this day is the time to honor God, by serving God's children. Mist of Mercy, we offer our hearts to you.

God of Community, Holy in One, as you are all to us, so we would offer all we are to you...as we pray. Amen.

Children's Time Sandy Rivenburg

We Celebrate the Baptism of Mason Dean Aldasch

We Join in Song: Hymn #2249 "God Claims You"

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... Romans 14: 1-12

We Join in Song: Hymn #347 "Spirit Song"

We Hear the Gospel Reading... Matthew 18: 21-35

The Message *Pastor Nick*

We Remember What We Believe and We Affirm Our Faith/The Apostles Creed
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

We Join in Song: Hymn #2120 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

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.

Sending Song: "Companions on the Journey" (*Verses 1 and 2*)

Blessing

forgiveness

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