

Newtonville United Methodist Church

Worship for April 18, 2021

Centering Music (*please be in silence as we prepare to worship*)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (by Safiyah Fosua)

When we are confused,

Lord, give us peace.

When we are afraid,

Lord, give us peace.

When we are lost in grief,

Lord, give us peace.

O God, meet us in this room,

And grant us peace!

Litany of Praise: (by Thom Shuman)

We are witnesses,

to the love God has poured into us.

We are witnesses of God's love,

sharing it with each person we meet.

We are witnesses to everyone we encounter,

little children like us, siblings in God's family.

Musical Reflection

Morning Prayer: (by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell)

Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love and instead fall into despair and gloom. Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who continues to offer us new life, who continues to turn us around and upside down, who continues to break down the walls of death in our own life. Forgive us, restore us and renew us. In the name of our risen Savior, Jesus the Christ, we pray as he taught: Loving Creator we honor you, and we honor all that you have made. Renew the whole world in the image of your love. Give us what we need for today, and a hunger to see the whole world fed. Strengthen us for what lies ahead; heal us from the hurts of the past; give us courage to follow your call in this moment. For your love is the only power, the only home, the only honor we need, in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

Children's Message

Scripture Lessons: Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48

Message: "Community"

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the Community:

Lord Jesus Christ, the light of your love shines on, illuminating the places where you are present. As the bewildered disciples pondered the stories of your appearance, you penetrated the darkness of their fear and doubt with your word of peace. You showed them the appalling marks of evil pierced on your hands and feet. You opened their minds to understand why you had to die to defeat such evil and death. Increase our understanding, we pray, and open our minds and hearts to receive you.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring to us O God, the sense of your living presence as we go into this new week. Renew in us the faith you want us to have, the faith that is not afraid to reach out in your name and to share the treasure you have given us, that treasure which is greater than silver and gold. Lord – you know our hearts, you know our needs, and you know the hearts of those around us and their needs. We lift ourselves and them before you at this time.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Finally, O Lord, we ask that you would bless us at Newtonville with vision for the future and reverence for the past. Guide us each day as we minister to one another and to world for which you gave yourself. Help us each day to bear witness to your name and to do that which you would have us do. We ask it through Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Litany: (by Kwasi Kena, inspired by Luke 24:48)

Leader: "Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice." (Micah 6:1)

People: Mountains and hills are God's witnesses.

Leader: Isaiah prophesied, "The mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." (Isaiah 55:12b)

People: Hills rejoice, and trees applaud our God.

Leader: Jesus said, "I tell you, if these (disciples) were silent, the stones would shout out." (Luke 19:40)

People: Even stones trumpet God's praise.

Leader: And what about us?

People: And what about us?

Leader: What will we do?

People: What will we do?

Leader: What will we do for the God who breathed life into Adam, life into dry bones, and life into our congregation?

People: We will be God's witnesses.

Leader: Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44)

People: We will pray.

Leader: The apostle Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith." (Romans 1:16)

People: We are not ashamed of the gospel. We are not ashamed of our faith.

Leader: Who will be a witness for our God?

People: We will!

Leader: Who will tell the nations of God's goodness?

People: We will! We declare God's goodness before all creation; we will be God's witnesses!

Sending Forth

Postlude

Be sure to check our website at www.numc.net for the latest news and updates.