

# Newtonville United Methodist Church

## Sunday Worship for October 18, 2020

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

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (*by Amy Loving, posted in "The Worship Closet"*)

The goodness of the Lord passes before us;

**The name of the Holy One is proclaimed for all to hear.**

God is gracious and merciful to whomever God chooses;

**Show us your glory, O Lord, we pray!**

Litany of Praise: (*by Ciona D. Rouse, The Africana Worship Book: Year A*)

Now Abraham was the first to go and must have been a brave man. Because you did not say where he was going and still, he followed your command. He shows us that when you ask us to move, we should say:

**Lord, here I am.**

There are many who are bold, and, in your name, take a stand when your people are hurting each other in ways we can't comprehend. Without a moment's hesitation, they say to you:

**Lord, here I am.**

When we hear tales of injustice and oppression happening across your vast land, we believe you want us to respond – to be your feet, to be your hands. And while I don't know the work you need me to do:

**Lord, here I am.**

You are working through our lives to fulfill your mighty will and plan and it requires a submission we sometimes cannot understand. But as you promised to never forsake us, we each say:

**Lord, here I am.**

Musical Reflection

Morning Prayer: (*by Thom M. Shuman, Lord's Prayer paraphrase by Margaret Rolfe*)

When we realize how we are blessed beyond every imagining, we can sing of your surprising grace and your steadfast presence to a world which has grown deaf from the noise of empty clichés.

**When we realize, remember, and recognize, we can sing, we can rejoice, we can share.**

When we remember your love which has no beginning and no end, when we stand in grace's sweet waters swirling around our hearts, we can rejoice in your hope which sees every person, even those we would never invite into our circles, as your beloved child.

**When we realize, remember, and recognize, we can sing, we can rejoice, we can share.**

When we recognize your call to treat every single person with dignity, justice, and hope, we can share your peace (even when we don't recognize it) with a society which believes violence is the solution to every single problem.

**When we realize, remember, and recognize, we can sing, we can rejoice, we can share.**

God in Community, Holy in One, as you live in us, so we will live for others, easy we pray as taught by Jesus: **Loving God, within and around us, we revere you. We seek to live life as you would want us to do; with love and respect for all people and all things in the universe. May we find each day sufficient for our needs, and find forgiveness when we do wrong, just as we forgive those who do wrong to us. In times of trouble, may we centre our lives in you. For your being is love, which comes with strength and with beauty, throughout eternity. Amen**

Children's Message

Scripture Lessons: Exodus 33:12-23; Matthew 22:15-22

Message: "Pressing On: Known by Name"

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the Community:

Let us pray for those who rise up in righteous anger; may they find peace and justice. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who have lost their lives to the hateful and ignorant abuse of power; may their deaths not be in vain. Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who have lost their souls to hate and ignorance, for they know not what they do.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those in power, that they have the wisdom and courage to see, know, and act according to what is true and right and good. Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the powerless, that they may find safe haven from cruelty and malice. If theirs is the kingdom of heaven, may they need not wait for death to find love and peace. Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the soul of the nation, that we may condemn what is wrong and embrace virtue. Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

And let us pray that we do not just pray with empty words, but have the strength and spirit to defend our brothers and sisters and siblings in need, speak truth to power, do the right thing. Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer. Amen.**

Closing Litany: *(by F. Forrester Church, Peace Prayers)*

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**for they know the unutterable beauty of simple things.**

Blessed are those who mourn,

**for they have dared to risk their hearts by giving of their love.**

Blessed are the meek,

**for the gentle earth shall embrace them and hallow them as its own.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

**for they shall know the taste of noble thoughts and deeds.**

Blessed are the merciful,

**for in return theirs is the gift of giving.**

Blessed are the pure in heart,

**for they shall be at one with themselves and the universe.**

Blessed are the peacemakers,

**for theirs is a kinship with everything that is holy.**

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

**for the truth will set them free.**

Sending Forth

Postlude

*Thank you for worshiping with us today! Please depart as directed when the service ends.*

*If you wish to make an offering there are plates at the front and rear of the sanctuary.*

*For the latest news and updates and to make worship reservations go to [www.numc.net](http://www.numc.net).*