Sunday October 4, 2026
19th Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! We are so glad that you are here with us today! Newtonville United Methodist Church celebrates two years as a Reconciling Congregation. Being a Reconciling Congregation means that we celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to journey in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Song

We Share Christ's Peace

We Are Called to Worship
Come, O people of God, let us worship the Lord.
Let us kneel before the Lord, our God and maker.
Gathered as we are, from east and west, from south and north.
We do not adhere to earthly categories or worldly distinctions.
Here it does not matter what language we speak or what land we come from.
It does not matter how we got here or how long it has been.
In this place, we are no longer strangers or aliens.
We are all citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

We Join in Song: Welcome (#3152)

Opening Prayer
God has prepared us to be living sanctuaries for love and justice. May we cross all the boundaries that separate us from our own true self and from others. May we know the joy and suffering of inter-connectedness. May we have the wisdom and courage to say no to unjust laws that deprive people of their dignity and rights. May our solidarity with immigrants be a transforming power in the world. May we work together to restore and rebuild our beloved communities. Amen.

A Time for Young People

We Pray Together
Joys and Concerns
Silence
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 1st Reading: Psalm 46

We Join in Song**:** Here I Am Lord (#593)

We Hear the Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 31-46

Message: Joy Bufano

An Affirmation of Faith

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: The Summons (#2130)

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. The United Methodist Church recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive throughout its history, and racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization. We, the community of faith at Newtonville United Methodist Church, shall confront racism in organizations and in individuals. We commit to eliminate racism in every facet of life and in society at large. We will work with others to address racial injustice at all times and in all places.

Sending Song/Blessing: Draw the Circle Wide

Newtonville United Methodist Church

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