

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP
NEWPORT-MT. OLIVET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
February 21, 2018
7:00 p.m.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

GREETING & CENTERING THOUGHT

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Connie Sublett

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us contemplate Jesus the Lord:
who endured the cross, disregarding its disgrace.

All: We worship you, Lord.

One: O Jesus Christ, born in humility
to confound the proud and to raise the humble:

All: We worship you, Lord.

One: You lived among us, healing the sick,
proclaiming good news to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

All: We worship you, Lord.

One: You came to unbind the chains of every slavery,
O friend of the humble, bread of hungry hearts.

All: We worship you, Lord.

One: Jesus, full of patience and goodness,
you showed forgiveness and kindness to the very end.

All: We worship you, Lord.

One: Jesus, gentle and humble of heart,
you call to yourself all who are weary and burdened.

All: We worship you, Lord.

One: Jesus, you came into the world to serve and to give your life;
you were betrayed for money, dragged before judges, and nailed to a cross.

All: We worship you, Lord.

One: Jesus, Lord of the universe,
by your resurrection from the dead you are alive at God's side,
and there you prepare a place for us.

All: We worship you, Lord.

* HYMN OF PRAISE *When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise*

TFWS 2216

* OPENING PRAYER

One: Let us pray:

All: Gracious God, the journey is long and the cross is heavy.

We come today to this place of worship tired—

tired of responsibility, tired of turning the other cheek,

tired of returning good for evil, and tired of serving you unnoticed.

We wish someone could bear our burdens for us.

We long for an oasis in our wilderness.

In the quietness of these moments, help us to turn our eyes upon the one

who has taken responsibility, who has turned the other cheek,

who has returned good for evil, who has borne our burdens for us.

Enable us to continue our Lenten journey, discover the oasis of your love,

and drink from your waters of mercy and compassion. Amen.

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 23:13-25

pg. 88, New Testament, Pew Bible

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 35:11-18

One: Malicious witnesses rise up;

they ask me about things I do not know.

All: They repay me evil for good; my soul is forlorn.

One: But as for me, when they were sick, I wore sackcloth;

I afflicted myself with fasting.

**All: I prayed with head bowed on my bosom,
as though I grieved for a friend or a brother;**

One: I went about as one who laments for a mother,

bowed down and in mourning.

**All: But at my stumbling they gathered in glee,
they gathered together against me;**

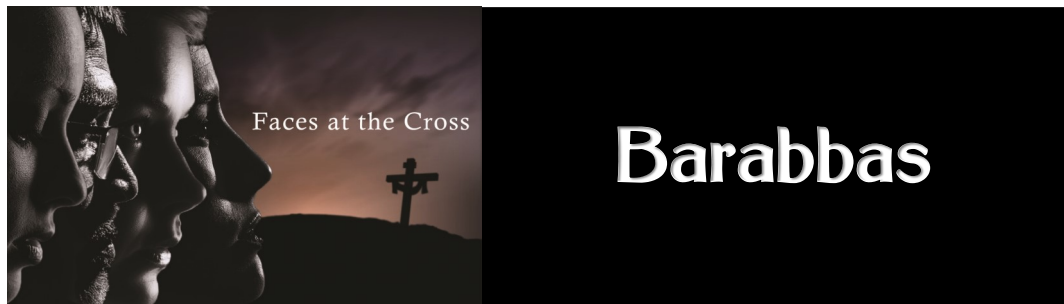
One: ruffians whom I did not know tore at me without ceasing;

All: they impiously mocked more and more, gnashing at me with their teeth.

One: How long, O LORD, will you look on?

Rescue me from their ravages, my life from the lions!

**All: Then I will thank you in the great congregation;
in the mighty throng I will praise you.**



A LENTEN CREED

All: We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,
who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

**We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God,
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

**We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

**We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,
and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.**

**We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,
and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.**

**We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.**

**This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.
Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

* HYMN OF DEDICATION *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* UMH 298

* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Faces at the Cross: Next Wednesday (2/28)

It can be reasonably argued that by choosing to not decide, one is still making a choice. Fence-sitting, in and of itself, is a choice. Join us as we reflect on Pontius Pilate's decision to shirk his responsibilities and allow an innocent man to be put to death on a Roman instrument of justice (Matthew 27:15-26).

Pilate released the
man they asked for..



**...and he handed Jesus
over as they wished.**

Luke 23:25