

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP
NEWPORT-MT. OLIVET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
February 28, 2018
7:00 p.m.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

GREETING & CENTERING THOUGHT

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Connie Sublett

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the season of Lent, a season to remember the sufferings of Jesus.

**All: A season to remember that to follow Christ is to take up our crosses
and to be servants of all.**

One: A season to remember Jesus' question:

"Are you able to drink from the cup that I drink?"

**All: A season to ask ourselves how we, like Simon of Cyrene,
might help to bear the cross.**

One: A season to ask ourselves how we, like Pilate and Caiaphas and the crowd,
continue to nail Christ to the tree.

**All: A season to ask ourselves if we, like Judas, Peter, and the disciples,
would betray, deny, or abandon Jesus in his greatest hour of need.**

One: In this season we worship, remembering Jesus' death
in love for us and all people.

**All: We stand in awe of the God who brings joy out of tears,
and life out of death.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE

More Love to Thee, O Christ

UMH 453

* OPENING PRAYER

All: Walk with us, loving God, on the path to Easter.

Take us slowly through this season

so we may truly feel, clearly see, and tenderly know

the depths of your love that you shared with us in Jesus.

Let us take a step to see our own denials,

the way we miss seeing you in the presence of those different from us.

Let us face our own fears and angers—

our fear of being alone;

our anger that erupts like Peter's sword.

Let us face our own betrayals of those who are close to us.

Loving God, walk with us through pain and searching,

be with us through doubt and despair,

and lead us to the joy of Easter. Amen.

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 27:15-26

pg. 32, New Testament, Pew Bible

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Psalms 109:1-5, 26-31

One: Do not be silent, O God of my praise.

**All: For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me,
speaking against me with lying tongues.**

One: They beset me with words of hate and attack me without cause.

All: In return for my love they accuse me, even while I make prayer for them.

One: So they reward me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

All: Help me, O LORD my God!

Save me according to your steadfast love.

One: Let them know that this is your hand; you, O LORD, have done it.

All: Let them curse, but you will bless.

One: Let my assailants be put to shame; may your servant be glad.

All: May my accusers be clothed with dishonor;

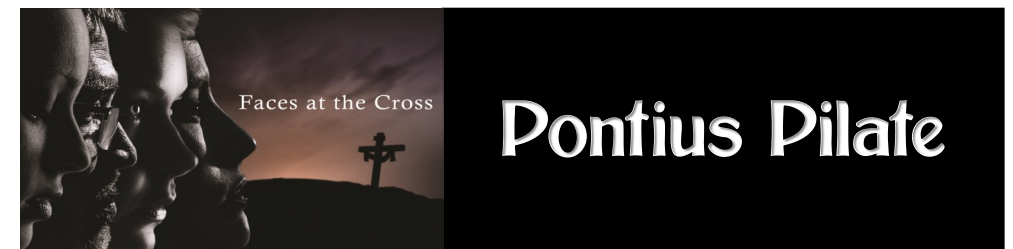
may they be wrapped in their own shame as in a mantle.

One: With my mouth I will give great thanks to the LORD;

I will praise him in the midst of the throng.

All: For he stands at the right hand of the needy,

to save them from those who would condemn them to death.



CONFESSION & PARDON

based on 1 John 1:8-9

One: When we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just
will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

All: Forgive us, O God:
when we wash our hands in the stagnant waters of apathy;
when it's not the terrible things we do,
but the good things we are capable of doing that are left undone;
when we succumb to the pressures of the crowd,
even if it goes against our better judgment;
when decisions are hard and we are tempted to follow the easy path;
when our position, our power, and our pride
stand in the way of lifting the burdens of others;
when others are oppressed and we fail to lift our voice on their behalf.

(moment of silent reflection)

One: While it is true we have sinned,
it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say,
in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

SENDING FORTH

* HYMN OF DEDICATION *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

UMH 420

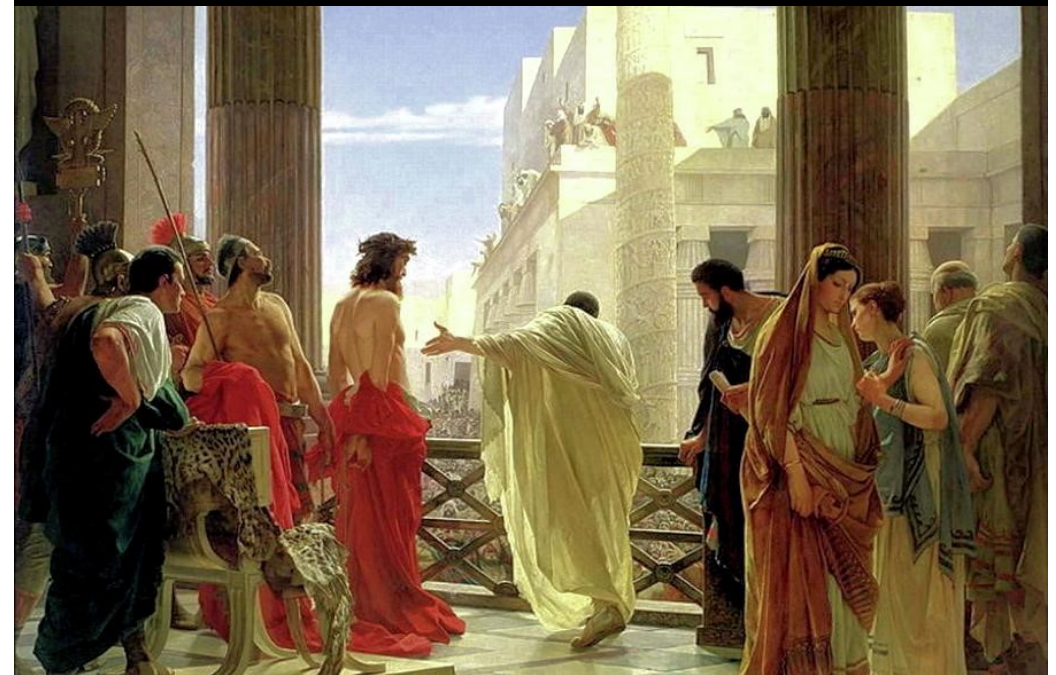
* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

* Indicates congregation standing (if able)
UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (large navy blue book)

Faces at the Cross: Next Wednesday (3/7)

The role Caiaphas plays in the Passion story reminds us how easily human beings are seduced by power and prestige, even in the name of religion. Our focus text will be Matthew 26:57-68.

**I am innocent
of this man's blood...**



...see to it yourselves.

Matthew 27:24