



MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

NEWPORT-MT. OLIVET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
March 7, 2018 7:00 p.m.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

GREETING & CENTERING THOUGHT

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Connie Sublett

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Lent calls us to journey, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

**All: Lent calls us to journey—
to the place where God covenants with us;
to receive the new names we are given.**

One: Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

All: Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

One: Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

**All: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

One: Lent calls us to journey with God.

All: Let us worship God, who walks with us every step along the way.

* HYMN OF PRAISE *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

UMH 175

* OPENING PRAYER

**All: All-knowing and all-caring God,
we gather this day drained by another week.
We are like a parched desert, empty and in need of replenishment.
Visit us with your presence, saturate us with your Spirit,
and bathe us in your streams of living water,
that our lives might acknowledge and worship you
to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 26:57-68
pg. 31, New Testament, Pew Bible

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Psalm 17:1-11, 15

One: Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry;
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

All: From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right.

One: If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me,
you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.

**All: As for what others do,
by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.**

One: My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

**All: I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me, hear my words.**

One: Wondrously show your steadfast love,

O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

**All: Guard me as the apple of the eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings,
from the wicked who despoil me,
my deadly enemies who surround me.**

One: They close their hearts to pity; with their mouths they speak arrogantly.

**All: They track me down; now they surround me;
they set their eyes to cast me to the ground.**

One: As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;

All: when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.



RESPONSIVE PRAYER

One: Because temptation is woven into the fabric of our lives,
and we know the weariness of forty days in the desert,
and the beckoning power of sweet fruit and the world's vain promises,
All: we need you, God.

One: Because we see the broken before the whole, the half empty cup,
the unfinished task, and the thirst in freedom's quest,
All: we need you, God.

One: Because we trust in what we can see and we are blinded by our prejudices,
All: we need you, God.

One: Because our need for correctness exceeds our need for truth,
our excuses preempt the cry of the wounded,
and our celebration of blessing is mindless of those displaced,
All: we need you, God.

One: Because you came among us and breathed into our sinewy souls,
and healed our pain and let us wound you,
and loved us to the end and, triumphed over all our hatred,
All: we need you, God.
Come, and breathe new life into us. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

* HYMN OF DEDICATION *What Wondrous Love Is This*

UMH 292

* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

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

Faces at the Cross: Next Wednesday (3/14)

Only found in the Gospel of Luke (23:39-43), the touching story of Dismas the repentant thief reminds us that, when confronted with our own vulnerability and mortality, forgiveness and reconciliation are only a prayer away.

Tell us if you are the Messiah...



...THE SON OF GOD.

Matthew 26:63