



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

NEWPORT-MT. OLIVET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 11, 2018 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING & PRAISE

PRELUDE Holly Carroll & Connie Sublett

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS Doug Martin, *Lay Leader*

* INTROIT *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* TFWS 2088

* CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 130

One: Lift up your voice and call out to God.

All: We cry out, believing that God hears us.

One: Come together and wait for God.

All: We come together, trusting that God is with us.

One: Surely God's presence is here with us now.

All: We wait in hope, for God's steadfast love lifts our hearts.

One: Come, worship the Lord.

All: We celebrate the power of God that restores us.

* HYMN OF PRAISE *Sing with All the Saints in Glory* UMH 702

* PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

One: Let us pray:

**All: Holy God, Creator of Life,
you call us out of our dark places, offering us the grace of new life.
When we see nothing but hopelessness,
you surprise us with the breath of your Spirit.
Call us out of our complacency and routines,
set us free from our self-imposed bonds,
and fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace.
In the name of Jesus, your anointed one, we pray. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

GOSPEL LESSON

John 11:1-44

pg. 104, New Testament, Pew Bible

CONFESSION & PARDON

based on Romans 5:8 & Hebrews 4:16

One: The proof of God's amazing love is this:

While we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,

so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion,

let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**All: Revitalizing God, your power goes far beyond our own,
and yet still we act as though the pains of this world
have final claim upon us.**

**We give in to the despair and hopelessness of death,
not trusting in your ability to call forth new life
from the tombs of our lives.**

Forgive us for doubting your power

to raise up new life in the midst of all the deaths we experience.

Forgive us for wanting to limit you to

"the last day" or "the world beyond this one,"

not trusting you to move and act among us, within us, through us.

**Forgive us, and open our eyes to the wonder of new life
blossoming forth in our lives even now.**

(Moment of silent confession)

One: "Come out," Jesus calls—

and his word unbinds us from the oppressive weight of our past
and pushes away the stones that close us off from love.

We are made free in the Spirit of God and forgiven all our sins.

**All: We are made free in the Spirit of God and forgiven all our sins.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

* PASSING THE PEACE

* GATHERING MUSIC

This Is the Day

UMH 657

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SUNG RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

UMH 191 (v. 1)

EMBRACING THE UNCERTAIN

LAZARUS & THE UNCERTAINTY OF MORTALITY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THANKSGIVING

OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

SENDING FORTH

* HYMN OF DEDICATION *You, O Christ, Are Resurrection* Insert

* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING/A PILGRIM'S PRAYER

* SUNG BENEDICTION *May You Run and Not Be Weary* TFWS 2281

* POSTLUDE Holly Carroll & Connie Sublett

* Indicates congregation standing (if able)

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (large navy blue book)

TFWS = The Faith We Sing (small navy blue paperback)

**"In a world where the dead have returned to life,
the word 'trouble' loses much of its meaning."**

—Dennis Hopper

YOU, O CHRIST, ARE RESURRECTION

(to the tune of *Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service*—UMH 581)

**You, O Christ, are resurrection
in a world that's filled with pain.
You reach out when we are hurting,
and you lift us up again.
Battered women, hungry children,
lonely people, those in need—
find in you a hope that's living
as they're welcomed, loved and freed.**

**You, O Christ, are resurrection
when we're caught up in our sin,
when we grieve the road we're traveling;
when we see what might have been.
You give healing and forgiveness
in the place of sin and strife.
Christ, we're drawn to what you give us—
resurrection and new life.**

**You, O Christ, are resurrection
when a loved one's memories fade.
For you never will forget us—
we're the ones you came to save.
Lord, we trust that you will guide us
when each day brings grief and stress.
Living Christ, you walk beside us
through this shadowed wilderness.**

**You, O Christ, are resurrection
when an illness takes its toll.
For the promise that you give us
is that one day we'll be whole.
So we need not fear the future
when the way seems hard to bear;
you will gently guide and lead us
to the place that you prepare.**

LAZARUS BLESSING

Jan L. Richardson

The secret of this blessing
is that it is written on the back of what binds you.

To read this blessing,
you must take hold of the end
of what confines you,
must begin to tug at the edge
of what wraps you round.
It may take long and long
for its length to fall away,
for the words of this blessing
to unwind in folds about your feet.
By then you will no longer need them.

By then this blessing
will have pressed itself
into your waking flesh,
will have passed into your bones,
will have traveled every vein
until it comes to rest
inside the chambers of your heart
that beats to the rhythm of benediction
and the cadence of release.

