



**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
NEWPORT-MT. OLIVET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
*March 4, 2018 11:00 a.m.*

**GATHERING & PRAISE**

PRELUDE

Holly Carroll & Connie Sublett

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Doug Martin, *Lay Leader*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus invites us to a way of celebration,  
meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.

**All: Let us walk his way with joy.**

One: Jesus beckons us to a way of risk, letting go of our security.

**All: Let us walk his way with determination.**

One: Jesus challenges us to listen to the voices of those who have nothing to lose.

**All: Let us walk his way with compassion.**

One: Jesus points us to a way of self-giving, where power and status are overturned.

**All: Let us walk his way with humility.**

One: Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross,  
where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

**All: Let us walk his way with hope.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE

*I Come with Joy*

UMH 617

\* PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: Let us pray:

**All: O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives,  
bringing new life out of destruction,  
hope out of despair,  
growth out of difficulty.**

**CATCH ME IN MY SCURRYING**

Ted Loder, *Guerillas of Grace*

Catch me in my anxious scurrying, Lord, and hold me in this Lenten season:  
hold my feet to the fire of your grace

and make me attentive to my mortality that I may begin to die now  
to those things that keep me from living with you  
and my neighbors on this earth;  
to grudges and indifference,  
to certainties that smother possibilities,  
to my addiction to sweatless dreams,  
to my arrogant insistence on how it has to be;  
my corrosive fear of dying someday  
which eats away the wonder of living this day,  
and the adventure of losing my life in order to find it in you.

Catch me in my aimless, scurrying, Lord, and hold me in this Lenten season:  
hold my heart to the beat of your grace

and create in me a resting place, a kneeling place, a tip-toe place  
where I can recover from the dis-ease of my grandiosities  
which fill my mind and calendar with busy self-importance,  
that I may become vulnerable enough  
to dare intimacy with the familiar  
to listen cup-eared for your summons,  
and to watch squint-eyed for your crooked finger  
in the crying of a child,  
in the hunger of street people,  
in the fear of the contagion of terrorism in all people  
in the rage of those oppressed because of sex or race,  
in the smoldering resentments of exploited third world nations,  
in the sullen apathy of the poor and ghetto-strangled people,  
in my lonely doubt and limping ambivalence;  
and somehow, during this season of sacrifice,  
enable me to sacrifice time, and possessions, and securities,  
to do something . . . something about what I see,  
something to turn the water of my words into the wine of will and risk,  
into the blessedness of deed, of a cross picked up, a savior followed.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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. Amen.**

#### SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Let us pray:

**All: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### SENDING FORTH

\* HYMN OF DEDICATION *His Eye Is on the Sparrow*

TFWS 2146

\* BLESSING OF THE HOLY CROSS STUDENTS

\* 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)

**We thank you that you do not leave us alone  
but labor to make us whole.**

**Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives,  
and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit,  
that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen.**

#### PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 12:1-34

#### EMBRACING THE UNCERTAIN

### THE CROWD & THE UNCERTAINTY OF WORRY

pg. 74, New Testament, Pew Bible

#### CONFESSION & PARDON

One: We come to the table of our Lord recognizing our need of God's mercy.  
In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**All: O God, source of all that makes life possible,  
giver of all that makes life good:  
We gather to give you thanks,  
yet we confess that we have often failed to live our thankfulness.  
What we have we take for granted,  
and we grumble about what we lack.  
We have squandered your bounty,  
with little thought of those who will come after us.  
We are more troubled by the few who have more  
than by the many who have less.  
Forgive us, O God.  
As we approach your table, accept our thanksgiving;  
and teach us to make gratitude and sharing our way of life.**

*(Moment of silent confession)*

One: As the Psalmist declared:

The Lord is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Holly Carroll & Connie Sublett

\* DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

## THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The God of the Lenten journey be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You brought all things into being and called them good.

From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image  
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights,  
you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family,  
and made covenant with every living creature on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights,  
you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.

When your people forsook your covenant,  
your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights;  
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

When you gave him to save us from our sin,  
your Spirit led him into the wilderness,  
where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry.  
When he suffered and died on the cross for our sin, you raised him to life,  
presented him alive to the apostles during forty days,  
and exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter,  
you lead us to repentance of sin and the cleansing of our hearts,  
that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced  
to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night when he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving,  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Catch me in my mindless scurrying, Lord,  
and hold me in this Lenten season:  
hold my spirit to the beacon of your grace  
and grant me light enough to walk boldly,  
to feel passionately,  
to love aggressively;  
grant me peace enough to want more,  
to work for more  
and to submit to nothing less,  
and to fear only you . . .  
only you!

Bequeath me not becalmed seas,  
slack sails and premature benedictions,  
but breathe into me a torment,  
storm enough to make within myself  
and from myself,  
something . . .  
something new,  
something saving,  
something true,  
a gladness of heart,  
a pitch for a song in the storm,  
a word of praise lived,  
a gratitude shared,  
a cross dared,  
a joy received.

