



**NEWTON
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
God is still speaking,

An Open and Affirming Congregation

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

Virtual Worship • April 9, 2020 • 6:00pm • Maundy Thursday

Digital Bulletin

This document is prepared so you can join our Sunday morning live-stream worship via our Facebook page (facebook.com/NewtonUCC) or call in via Zoom (contact Rev. Petersen at revjessicapetersen@gmail.com for call-in information) or worship on your own at a time convenient for you (visit our Facebook page or website—uccnewton.org).

We are new to online and streaming worship at Congregational UCC and still working on smoothing out a few “hiccups” and technical difficulties. Of course, there is nothing that compares to being physically present with one another in worship, and yet this is what we need to do to “love our neighbors” during the current national emergency.

We apologize in advance for any problems that you may encounter in connecting to the service and welcome your feedback on how to improve the virtual worship experience over the coming weeks when we will not be able to worship in our sanctuary.

PREPARING FOR VIRTUAL WORSHIP

As you prepare to join in online worship with us, in addition to making whatever technical preparations you need to make, consider how to prepare your personal space for worship:

- Find a small branch or scarf or other piece of clothing for the “Call to Worship”
- Silence your phone and eliminate distractions
- Light a candle or some incense
- Open your Bible or browser to Matthew 26:6, where our story begins
- Position your body in a posture of worship and prayer

*Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.
Matthew 27:50*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE

One: As we prepare ourselves to join together in worship,
let us remind ourselves who we are
as members and friends of Congregational United Church of Christ.

**All: We are a community of God's beloved
dedicated to following the teachings of Jesus as we live our faith
by loving and serving all of God's creation
and striving for justice and peace
throughout our community, our nation, and the world.**

THE BREATH OF GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: During this season of Lent,
we are called to turn back to God and God's ways
and dwell with confidence in the presence of the divine.

**All: We are called to self-examination and reflection
that we might remember who we are and whose we are.**

One: On this Holy Thursday,
we join with the disciples as they share one final meal with Jesus
praying and professing that we will not betray him.

**All: We join Jesus and his disciples in the garden
wondering if we can stay awake and abide with him.**

One: We join with Jesus at his trial as we fight to swallow our own words of judgment.

**All: We join with those gathered at the cross,
as we behold both our sin and our salvation.
And, we watch with the women as Jesus is laid in the tomb.**

One: We journey together as companions through silence and darkness
as we reflect on this last week of Jesus's earthly life.

**All: Remain with us, O God, and touch our hearts
as we look for answers, as we search for meaning, as we seek your peace.
We pray in Jesus's name. Amen.**

LENTEN REFRAIN

Guide Me, God

by Jessica Petersen

***Guide me, God, lead me on the way; take away my fear.
Guide me, God, lead me on the way; fill me with your love.***

THE ANOINTING

Matthew 26:6-13

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel?
Where are you as Jesus is anointed with oil?*

LENTEN REFRAIN

Guide Me, God

***Guide me, God, lead me on the way; take away my fear.
Guide me, God, lead me on the way; fill me with your love.***

THE LAST SUPPER

Matthew 26:14-30

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel?
Where are you as Jesus shares a final meal with his friends?*

LENTEN REFRAIN

Guide Me, God

***Guide me, God, lead me on the way; take away my fear.
Guide me, God, lead me on the way; fill me with your love.***

THE GARDEN

Matthew 26:36-46

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel?
Where are you as Jesus goes off to pray?*

LENTEN REFRAIN

Guide Me, God

***Guide me, God, lead me on the way; take away my fear.
Guide me, God, lead me on the way; fill me with your love.***

THE BETRAYAL

Matthew 26:47-56

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel?
Where are you as Jesus is handed over to the authorities?*

LENTEN REFRAIN

Guide Me, God

***Guide me, God, lead me on the way; take away my fear.
Guide me, God, lead me on the way; fill me with your love.***

THE HIGH PRIEST

Matthew 26:57-68

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel?
Where are you as Jesus is questioned and condemned?*

LENTEN REFRAIN

Guide Me, God

***Guide me, God, lead me on the way; take away my fear.
Guide me, God, lead me on the way; fill me with your love.***

THE DENIAL

Matthew 26:69-75

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel?
Where are you as Peter turns his back on Jesus?*

LENTEN REFRAIN

Guide Me, God

***Guide me, God, lead me on the way; take away my fear.
Guide me, God, lead me on the way; fill me with your love.***

THE TRIAL AND SENTENCING

Matthew 27:1-2, 11-23

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel?
Where are you as Jesus is beaten, insulted, questioned, and sentenced to death?*

LENTEN REFRAIN

Guide Me, God

***Guide me, God, lead me on the way; take away my fear.
Guide me, God, lead me on the way; fill me with your love.***

THE CRUCIFIXION

Matthew 27:27-44

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel?
Where are you as Jesus walks his final steps, as Jesus is nailed to the cross?*

LENTEN REFRAIN

Guide Me, God

***Guide me, God, lead me on the way; take away my fear.
Guide me, God, lead me on the way; fill me with your love.***

THE LAST BREATH

Matthew 27:45-56

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel?
Where are you as Jesus breathes his last?*

LENTEN REFRAIN

Guide Me, God

***Guide me, God, lead me on the way; take away my fear.
Guide me, God, lead me on the way; fill me with your love.***

THE BURIAL

Matthew 27:57-61

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel?
Where are you as Jesus is laid in the tomb?*

LENTEN REFRAIN

Guide Me, God

***Guide me, God, lead me on the way; take away my fear.
Guide me, God, lead me on the way; fill me with your love.***

DEPART IN SILENCE