

**\* We invite you to stand as you are able**

**INTROIT\* “Come, Come, Everybody Worship” The Faith We Sing #2271**

**STATEMENT OF WELCOME TO ALL AND FOR ALL**

**All: No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey you are welcome here.**

**GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We invite all to participate by signing the attendance pad located in each pew.

**A MOMENT OF SILENCE** (church bell tolls)

**CALL TO WORSHIP\***

One: We look for help.

**All: Where will it come from?**

One: Our help will come from the Lord who created the heavens and the earth.

**All: Let our hearts rejoice in God’s kindness and love. Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER\***

**All: Gracious and glorious Lord, we come, as did Nicodemus, with questions on our hearts and in our lives. We come hoping someone can help us find answers and healing. But we are also hardened with doubts about self, others, and even you. Grant us healing and openness to your spirit that we may be better servants of your Word, your Will, and your Way. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN** My Faith Looks Up to Thee” Red Hymnal #452

**FIRST READING** Psalm 121 (CEB)

I raise my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.  
God won’t let your foot slip. Your protector won’t fall asleep on the job.  
No! Israel’s protector never sleeps or rests!  
The Lord is your protector; the Lord is your shade right beside you.  
The sun won’t strike you during the day; neither will the moon at night.  
The Lord will protect you from all evil; God will protect your very life.[a]  
The Lord will protect you on your journeys— whether going or coming—  
from now until forever from now.

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**GOSPEL** John 3:1-17 (CEV)  
There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from

God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it’s not possible to see God’s kingdom.”

Nicodemus asked, “How is it possible for an adult to be born? It’s impossible to enter the mother’s womb for a second time and be born, isn’t it?” Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don’t be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ God’s Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. It’s the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said, “How are these things possible?” “Jesus answered, “You are a teacher of Israel and you don’t know these things? I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don’t receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

One: Word of God, for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God!**

**MESSAGE** “Ready...Set...Reset” Pastor Anne Kadue

**HYMN** “Blessed Assurance” Black Hymnal #473

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**HOLY COMMUNION & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our God, 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.**

**OFFERING & HYMN\*** “You Who Are Thirsty” The Faith We Sing #2132

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**All: God of unwavering love, you have held nothing back in your love for us, not even your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love, and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to you. As we dedicate our offerings to you, lead us away from our tendency to hold back and worry that there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance you have called us to be. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**DOXOLOGY\***

**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**CIRCLE OF BENEDECTION & SENDING\***

**All: Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

We welcome all persons of every age, gender identity, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, and physical or mental ability into full participation in the life of this faith community. We are committed to the reconciliation of all persons as children of God and declare ourselves to be a Reconciling Congregation.

**CHURCH STAFF & WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Anne Kadue	Lead Pastor
Donald Birttnen	Worship Tech Assistant
Donna Zilge	Office Assistant
Joyace Baker	Guest Music Accompanist
Mike Nelson	Bell Choir Director

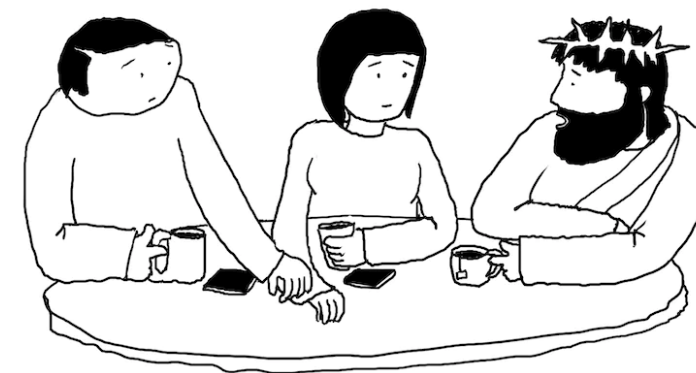
*You are loved.* 

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YOU SEE, LOVE DOESN'T GET TO KNOW YOU THEN LOVE YOU.  
LOVE LOVES YOU THEN GETS TO KNOW YOU.

**Welcome to  
Newport United Methodist Church &  
Community United Church of Christ**

Second Sunday in Lent  
March 5, 2023