



Quote for Meditation:

“Love seeks one thing only:
the good of the one loved.
It leaves all the other secondary effects to take
care of themselves.

Love, therefore, is its own reward.”

—Thomas Merton

First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 AM February 2, 2025

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

** indicates when to rise in body or in spirit*

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We circle the table, and circle each other,

People: **To be lifted up into love which never dies.**

Leader: We see the font, and remember our baptisms,

People: **To meet a love who calls to us each day.**

Leader: We worship here, in word and sacrament, one church of Jesus Christ,

People: **To be set free by our redeemer and friend,
great love incarnate. Let us worship God!**

*** HYMN PH #335**

“Though I May Speak”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

O Incarnate Love, we do our best to follow your greatest commandment: to love you with our hearts and minds and souls. We do our best to follow the second one like it: to love our neighbors as ourselves. And yet, it is difficult to love without ego, without self-interest, and without conditions. Despite our love for our grandchildren, children, parents, and grandparents, it often is marred by our personal motivations, beliefs, and expectations. We pretend that we “know” how to love someone the “right” way. We do not. Strengthen us to love others more deeply; equip us to reflect your love more fully; and liberate us through our encounters with your perfect love.

(A Moment of Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON from Romans 8:38-39

Leader: Believe in the good news of the Gospel:
Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor
anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the
love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

* SONG OF JOY STF #2223 “They’ll Know We Are Christians” verse 4

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God’s only son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LISTENING FOR THE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Descend upon us, Holy Spirit, and let us listen to your voice of love. Indwell within us, drawing the Word inward, that we may be renewed for service. Make it impossible to separate our wisdom from an inner knowledge of your love, which reveals to us the mysteries of our faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 33:1-6

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.
Praise befits the upright.

People: **For the word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.**

Leader: He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

People: **Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.**

Leader: Our heart is glad in him
because we trust in his holy name.

People: **Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Getting It So Right, Getting It So Wrong"

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God.

In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
of every race and people, to live as one community.

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD WITH OUR LIVES
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CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

* SONG OF GRATITUDE PH #591

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jane MacDonald, Treasurer

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

* HYMN PH #521 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...Therefore, with all creation, we join in singing your unending praise:

People: [Sung] 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,
Hosanna in the highest.

...Great is the mystery of faith:

People: [Sung] Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.
Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Gracious God, you have gathered us at this table with the company of your people in heaven and on earth. In your mercy we have been nourished by the living bread, Jesus Christ, and we have been refreshed by the power of your Holy Spirit. May we, who have shared this holy meal, go out as glad disciples of our Lord, following in his way, proclaiming his truth, and living his love for the world.

Many: Amen.

GOING OUT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST

* HYMN PH #376 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

We thank our Worship Leader Terry Van Auken,
our Communion Servers Sue Hermes, Donna Kronen, Jody and Tom McNulty,
our Ushers/Greeters Gail Hoffman and Scott Hoffman and
Audiovisual Leader, Jerry Chandler this morning.

LITURGICAL SOURCES

Affirmation of faith: From "A Brief Statement of Faith," *Book of Confessions*
(Louisville, KY: Office of the General Assembly of the PCUSA).

Prayer of intercession: *Book of Common Worship*
(Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox 2018), 93-94.

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

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Child Care Provider Heather Woods

E-Giving - *It makes giving easy!*

E-Giving is a convenient way to support our ministries. Here's how:



Scan the QR Code to make a donation through your smart phone. **OR**

Go to the church website, fpcnewtonnj.org and click on the **E-donate** button and sign up using your email and a password. You can make a one-time donation or sign up for automatic recurring donations.

More comfortable using a check? No problem, just drop a check in the mail.

As always, we thank you for your generosity and support!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON
The week of February 2, 2025

- Sun. 2/2 **9:00 am Adult Study followed by Prayer Time** (Adult Study Room)
9:00 am Faith Formation Classes
9:00 am Worship Service - Communion Celebrated (Chapel)
9:30 am Family Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:30 am Worship - Communion Celebrated (Sanctuary)
Child care for infants and toddlers is available on the second floor
 Coffee Hour following worship (Parlor)
12 Noon - 2:00 pm Youth Group
- Mon. 2/3 **10:00 am Wired Word** (via Zoom)
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Manna House Board Meeting (Parlor)
7:00 pm Finance and Facilities Meeting
- Wed. 2/5 **8:00 pm Midweek Vespers** (via Zoom)
- Thur. 2/6 **7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal**
- Fri. 2/7 **1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Hearts and Hands Craft Group** (Adult Study)
- Sun. 2/9 **9:00 am Adult Study followed by Prayer Time** (Adult Study Room)
9:00 am Faith Formation Classes
9:00 am Worship Service - Communion Celebrated (Chapel)
9:45 am Family Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:30 am Worship - Communion Celebrated (Sanctuary)
Child care for infants and toddlers is available on the second floor
 Coffee Hour following worship (Parlor)
Bucket Brigade:(monthly loose change collection to support local mission)
11:30 am - 1:30 pm Souper Bowl of Caring - Soup and Bowl Sale
12:45 - 2:45 pm Girl Scouts