



NEWTOWN United Methodist Church

March 8, 2026 – Third Sunday in Lent

too tightly, loosen our grip. Where pride shields us, soften us. Where fear shapes us, lead us deeper into trust. Teach us the surrender that leads not to loss, but to life. Form in us a humility that makes room for grace, and a courage willing to follow Christ in the way of the cross. We offer this hour to You, our worship, our listening, our becoming, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prelude

*Affirmation of Faith

UMH #881

Choral Introit

“A Right Spirit”

S. Casurella

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Pew Bible pg. 197

Welcome and Announcements

Special Music

“You Say”
Alexa Farah, *Soloist*

L. Daigle

*Gathering Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

UMH #577
(Verses 1, 3, & 4)

Gospel Reading

Luke 18:9-14

Pew Bible pg. 81

*Call to Worship

Sermon Series

The Inner Work of the Cross
“The False Self Must Die”

Pastor Rodney Brailsford

Leader: Jesus said, “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone.”

People: But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Leader: There is a life we cling to, and there is a life God longs to grow within us.

People: We come willing to release what cannot last.

Leader: The way of the cross is not loss for its own sake, it is surrender that makes room for resurrection.

People: Form in us the courage to let go, that new life may rise in Christ. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

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.

*Opening Hymn

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

UMH #297

*Hymn

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

TFWS #2129

*Opening Prayer

Merciful and faithful God, as we gather in this sacred season of Lent, draw our attention toward You and awaken us to Your presence among us. We come carrying many versions of ourselves, the confident and the uncertain, the strong and the guarded. Search us gently. Where we cling

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Instrumental

*Response

Doxology, UMH #95

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

*Offertory Prayer

*Closing Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”

UMH #593
(Verses 1 & 3)

*Dismissal and Blessing

Postlude

*Please Stand if able



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