



# NEWTOWN United Methodist Church

April 26, 2026 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

*Rooted in Faith. Growing in Christ. Serving with Love.*

Prelude In Questa Tomba Oscura arr. Frank W. Asper

Choral Introit "Love Is a Special Thing" Janie Oliver

Welcome and Announcements

\*Gathering Hymn "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" UMH #127

\*Call to Worship

Leader: Christ is the true vine, and in Him we are given life.

**People: We come to abide in His love and be shaped by His grace.**

Leader: Apart from Christ, we cannot bear the fruit God desires.

**People: In Christ, we are strengthened, renewed, and made whole.**

Leader: Come, then, and open your hearts to the One who nourishes every living branch.

**People: We come to worship, to grow in Christ, and to bear fruit for the glory of God. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn "I Am Thine, O Lord" UMH #419  
(Verses 1, 2, & 4)

Opening Prayer

**Gracious God, we come before You with thankful hearts, grateful for the gift of this new day and for the grace that gathers us in worship. Draw us near to Christ, the true vine, and shape us by Your Spirit as we abide in**

**Him. Prune away what keeps us from bearing good fruit, and deepen within us a desire to grow in faith, love, and obedience. May this time of worship nourish our souls, renew our hearts, and draw us more fully into the life You give. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

\*Affirmation of Faith UMH #881

Epistle Reading Colossians 2:6–10 Pew Bible pg. 200

Choral Anthem "I'm Going on a Journey" arr. Mark Hayes

\*Gospel Reading John 15:1–11 Pew Bible pg.109

Sermon Series *More Than a Mission Statement* Pastor R. Brailsford  
**Growing in Christ**

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.**

\*Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" UMH #384  
(Verses 1, 2, & 4)

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

\*Response Doxology, UMH #94

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

