



NEWTOWN United Methodist Church

October 25, 2026 – Laity Sunday

Together by Grace: Be Grounded in Love

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

Welcome and Announcements

Gerry Hixson, CSM, Lay Leader

*Gathering Hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” UMH #64

*Call to Worship

Leader: We are chosen children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.

People: Grounded in love, we belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.

Leader: The Spirit empowers us to live as imitators of Christ in love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

People: Grounded in love, we belong to God, and through God, we learn to love one another.

Leader: The Spirit inspires us to receive God’s Word with joy in a world that rejects the good news.

People: Grounded in love, we belong to God, and through God, we live in joy with one another.

Leader: Come, let us worship in the assurance of God’s love that chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as the family of Christ.

People: We come to worship God in the assurance that we belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another. Amen.

*Opening Hymn “Blessed Assurance” UMH #369

*Opening Prayer

Loving, living God, be among us now. Show us your ways. Guide our steps. Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours. Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.

*Affirmation of Faith

UMH #881

Prayer of Confession

Loving God of Grace, we know that you have chosen us, but we often forget that you have also chosen others. You call us to be imitators of Christ, yet many times we are imitators of the world. You challenge us to turn from our idols, but we are tempted to turn back to them again and again. Rescue us, Lord, from ourselves. Show us your way. Guide our every action, that we may live as you call us to live, as we silently confess our sins to you.

Silent Confession

Pardon

Leader: Beloved children of God, receive this good news: God loves us, chooses us, forgives us, and renews us to live in love and service of God and neighbor. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 96:1–13

Pew Bible pg. 550

Special Music

“In Christ Alone”
Alexa Farah, Soloist

K. Getty & S. Townend

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

Pew Bible pg. 203

Introduction of Speakers & Reflections

Monica Flint | Doug Smith | Debbie Haneman

Congregational 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 of Response "Spirit of the Living God (*sing twice*) UMH #393

*Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Generosity

*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!**

*Offertory Prayer

*Closing Hymn "Living for Jesus" TFWS #2149

*Dismissal and Blessing

Postlude

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