

West Newbury Congregational Church

March 25, 2012

Rev. Cynthia Batten, Minister

Parsonage: 429-2869

Judy Vaughan, Organist

Ecumenical Lenten Service

Order of Worship

Prelude *“O Sacred Head”* arr. Garth Edmundson

Greetings and Announcements

Introit *“Rock of Ages”*
Text: A. Toplady music: Thomas Hastings

Call to Worship

This is the season of Lent, a season to remember the sufferings of Jesus Christ.

A season to remember that to follow Christ is to take up our crosses and to be servants of all.

A season to remember Jesus' question, “Are you able to drink the cup that I drink?”

A season to ask yourselves how we, like Simon the Cyrene, might help to bear the cross.

A season to ask ourselves how we, like Pilate and Caiaphas and the crowd, continue to nail Christ to the tree.

A season to ask ourselves how we, like Peter, are afraid and turn away.

A season to watch and wait with Christ, that we may have courage in the hour of testing.

A season to prepare to proclaim with Mary Magdalene that Christ is not dead by alive!

***Hymn (red) #150** verses 1 – 4

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

Unison Prayer

God, most compassionate and merciful, we thank You that You have come to us in Jesus the Servant-Christ, whose disciples we are. Make us strong in your strength, make us wise in your wisdom, and make us gentle in your compassion. May we be signs of the human unity You seek to accomplish through the cross of Jesus Christ, that your name may be glorified in all the earth.. We pray in Christ's name and as He taught...

The Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

Anthem *“Victory in Jesus”* Eugene M. Bartlett

The Call to Confession

As we observe the season of Lent, standing beneath the cross of Jesus is a sobering experience. Today, people are still crucified by the same forces that destroyed Jesus. Today, each of us falls short of the resolve and dedication to God which Jesus exhibited by the way He lived and died. So let us who live in a twisted world and who are all too weak in spirit, join together in the unison prayer of confession....

Prayer of Confession

We surround ourselves with crosses, O God; yet we confess that we shrink back from the awareness that your glory is revealed in the criminal's cross of Jesus Christ. Help us to know your presence wherever there is suffering in our world; may we be channels of your love and healing, so that You may not suffer needlessly.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ.

Silent Prayer

Assurance

Through Christ the dividing walls have been broken down. Forgiven, we have been handed the hope that we can live our lives in new ways. Such a gift surely sets us free to shine forth in the world with love.

***Hymn (blue) #32 or (red) #177**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Scripture Reading

Sermon

Hymn (blue) #327 *“The Old Rugged Cross”*

***Benediction**

Postlude *“Lamb of God, Our Savior”* J. S. Bach

*Those who are able may stand

Offering plates in the back are for free will offerings for the Outreach Program of the Inter-Church Council.

Please join us for refreshments and fellowship following the service.

April

1st 7:00 p.m. Palm Sunday Concert at Bradford UCC

Visit the church’s website at www.WestNewburyChurch.org

*Please power off your cell phones during worship
as they interfere with the sound system*

