

## PARTICIPATING IN THIS WORSHIP SERVICE:

Rev. Dr. Dawson B. Taylor, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. David Kaiser-Cross, Executive Minister

Rev. Dr. Deborah Kaiser-Cross, Minister for Congregational Care

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Director of Music and Organist

Heather Vicevic, soloist

Ushers: John Ballew, Bill Rumpf

## 2019 LENTEN MEDITATIONS

Meditations will be followed by a guided labyrinth walk for those who wish to participate.

### March 13, 12 p.m.

Meditation by Rev. Dr. David Kaiser-Cross  
Emerson Millar, *violin*  
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, *organ and piano*

### March 20, 12 p.m.

Meditation by Rev. Lisa Lefkow, CEO  
Habitat for Humanity of Collier County  
Ryan Little, *french horn*  
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, *organ and piano*

### March 27, 12 p.m.

Meditation by Rev. Dr. Dawson B. Taylor  
Dr. Robert Tudor, *baritone*  
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, *organ and piano*

### April 3, 12 p.m.

Meditation by Rev. Dr. Deborah Kaiser-Cross  
Jenni Groyon, *bassoon*  
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, *organ and piano*

### April 10, 12 p.m.

Meditation by Rev. Rich Kirschner  
Leelo Basham, *flute*  
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, *organ and piano*

### April 17, 12 p.m.

Meditation by Rev. Dr. Sharon Harris-Ewing  
Glenn Basham, *violin*  
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, *organ and piano*



 Our sanctuary is equipped with the T-Loop (Telecoil Loop) Hearing System. Additional hearing devices are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.

### 4 WAYS TO GIVE

Envelopes are available in worship



Online via our website



Text to Give

Text 'NAPLESUCC' and the \$ amount' to 73256.



Stocks & IRA's

Please call Sharon in the church office.



As a **mission-driven** congregation, Naples United Church of Christ strives to show that actions speak louder than words. We are not only active in community outreach, but passionate about social causes. As an **intergenerational** congregation, we engage with people of all ages and stages of life to be a place where people not only believe, but also belong. As a **growing** church, we do not ask people to "check their brains at the door," rather to ask deep questions of faith of each other and of God.

We are an Open and Affirming congregation that not only welcomes, but celebrates all people. We are proud to be one of more than 5,000+ congregations in the United Church of Christ and of our identity as a "Traditional Church for Progressive People."

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info@naplesucc.org

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# MARCH 6, 2019 12 P.M.



## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

*Variations on Picardy*

Michael Helman

WORDS OF WELCOME

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP

**All: Gentle God, we thank you for your Lenten walk through Galilee and our lives. We thank you for your healing grace and teaching challenge; we thank you for the miracle that our little gifts can be turned into many loaves. We thank you for the parables that tease us; for the supper of Passover and Passion that makes us whole; and the cross, tomb, and heaven that call us. Gentle God, we thank you for your presence with us as we worship together.**

\*HYMN # 252

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (vss. 1 and 2)*

LAND OF REST

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Lent is a time to reflect on our lives and to seek a closer relationship with one another and with the Source of Love. Will you join me now as we open our hearts to the healing power of the Holy:

**All: Wise and powerful God, you have given us your light and truth to guide us through confusion, yet we have relied instead on our human wisdom and have lost our way.**

One: We confess that we have followed the way of fear and worry and abandoned the way of love.

**All: We confess that we have searched for comfort in things and experiences that have left us empty or too full to notice the things that are eternal.**

One: We confess that we have wandered into relationships to satisfy our needs, rather than to love without condition.

**All: We confess that we have been content with simple answers to complex problems and found satisfaction and even joy in imagining that we were right and others were wrong.**

One: We confess that we have not loved our neighbors as Jesus has called us to do, and that we have been content with allowing others to define strangers as enemies.

**All: O God, there is much that burdens, almost too much that burdens our hearts. Give us the courage to seek the way of new life as the disciples of Jesus. Give us hope as we seek to turn our lives in the direction of love. Give us the assurance that we are your precious children loved without condition. Hear us as we open our lives to you:**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Do you have the courage to accept the good news?

**All: With God's help we will do our best.**

One: Then listen! Nothing about us comes to the loving God as a surprise! The amazing thing about God's grace is that it is exactly that: amazing! Accept God's acceptance of you and do what you can, every time you can, to live the way of Jesus: loving God, loving one another, and loving yourself without condition. That is the good news of abundant life. Thanks be to God!

**All: Amen and Amen!**

SOLO

*Change My Heart, O God*

Eddie Espinosa

SCRIPTURE

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

REFLECTION

Locusts Happen

Rev. Dr. Dawson B. Taylor

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Ashes are a symbol of purification. As a fire burns, it can separate what is valuable from what is valueless, just as an assayer's fire can separate a base metal from one that is precious. In this same way, the ashes, when we receive them, are a symbol of the new space that is now present within us for a new life. Those who wish may now come forward and receive the mark of the ashes as a sign of forgiveness, healing, and new life. The ushers will guide you. If you need to remain seated, please let an usher know and a pastor will come to your pew.

SOLO

*Create In Me A Clean Heart, O God*

Carl Mueller

UNISON PRAYER

**All: Creating God, Still Center of the world you have made, we have come to you in this season of turning and returning. We do not know how to seek you with our whole hearts, but we know you are our Source and our Destiny. In the midst of life, we return to you; we turn toward you. We thank you that you receive even the broken heart, the troubled conscience, the conflicted spirit. We thank you for the new, sacred space in our lives we have received today. Seeking you in the quiet, through Jesus Christ, who is our path homeward to you. Amen.**

\*HYMN # 252

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (vss. 3-5)*

LAND OF REST

\*WORDS OF BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Tune based on Picardy*

Michael Helman

You are invited to join us after worship for a walk in the labyrinth and/or remain in the sanctuary for a time of personal prayer with Rev. Drs. Kaiser-Cross and Rev. Dr. Taylor.