



*The order of service is subject to change at the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Italicized Bold print invites congregational response in unison.

*Means you are **invited to stand** if able and comfortable.

Large print hymnals, large print bulletins, service script, pew cushions, and Listening Assistance Devices are available at the entry of the Sanctuary

You're encouraged to check-in at New Milford UMC on Facebook & share our livestream.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Words to Ponder:

As the ancients remind us, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

Life is around us, even in the memories of ghosts and loved ones long gone.

Death is but the other side of the coin of life.

Hope is but the other side of the coin of despair.

Unity is but the other side of the coin of division.

Flip a coin.

Choose your side.

For life and hope await us on the other side.

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

In the fire and the flames,

Spirit appears to bless and inspire us.

In the division and the despair,

Christ arrives to challenge and invite us.

In the shadows and the sorrow,

God walks alongside to lift us up.

In this moment, we gather together to worship, to pray, to sing, and to lament.

We gather on this blessed journey of life, death, and resurrection.

***Opening Prayer**

Christ of mysterious paradox, enter the paradoxes of our lives. Divide us when false unity divides us from you. Unify us when false division separates us from one another. Connect with us so securely, that we may connect with one another in the power of your Holy Spirit, as we worship together this day. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

“Surely the Presence”

UMH#328

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Pat Tripp

Challenging Christ, forgive us when we avoid your hard truths. Grant your mercy when we look for the easy path and avoid the path you set before us. Guide us back to where you would have us go. Strengthen us to face the challenge of living faithful lives and of following your lead. Encourage us to rejoice when we see the way forward, and love us so fully that we accept your love. Help us live the love you shower on our lives, that we may shower this love on others. In your love and grace, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

“How Great Thou Art”

UMH#77

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

Pat Tripp

The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard

5 I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

2 He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

4 What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

5 And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

6 I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,

and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;

he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;

righteousness
but heard a cry!

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Luke 12:49-56

Pat Tripp

Jesus the Cause of Division

49 “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! **50** I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! **51** Do you think that I have come

to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! **52** From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; **53** they will be divided: father against son
 and son against father,
 mother against daughter
 and daughter against mother,
 mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
 and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Interpreting the Time

54 He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. **55** And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. **56** You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Reflecting on God’s Message

“God Only Knows”

Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Pastor Ed

Invitation of the Offering

Pastor Ed

***Doxology**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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

Offering Prayer

Pastor Ed

We praise you for your mighty and abundant love.
 Sing through the gifts we return to you, that others may know your great love.
 Sing through our lives, that through us, others may discover your song.
 Sing through even our division, that we may discover a unity we have never tasted before in your peace.
 Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn**

“Father, I Adore You”

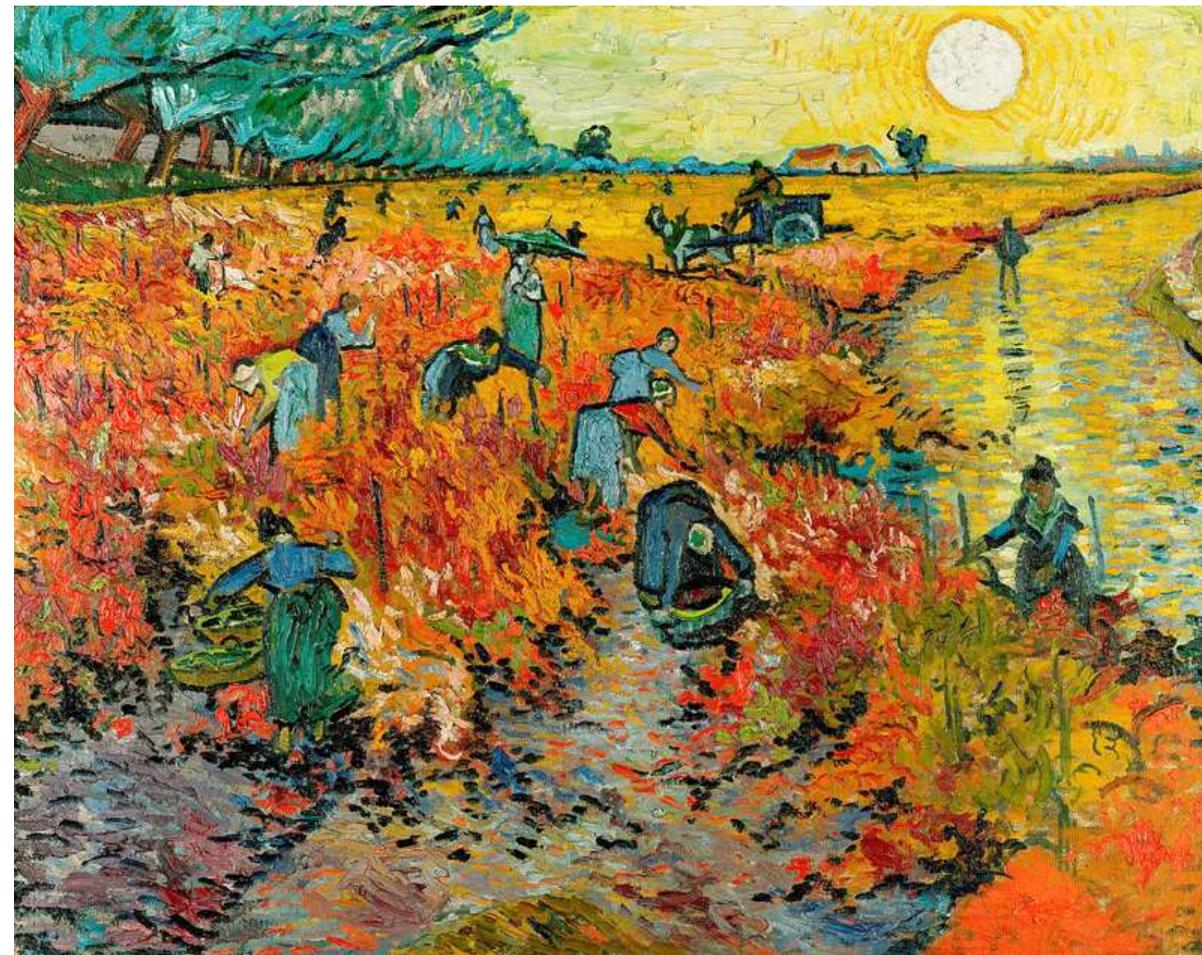
TFWS#2038

Lord’s Prayer

**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.
 Do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Benediction
 Postlude**

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | www.newmilfordumc.org | 860.354.4596
 Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Musical Guest, Chuck Samson | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams
 Liturgist – Pat Tripp
 Ministers:
 All members of the New Milford UMC



*Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890. Red Vineyards near Arles

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost | 8.14.2022 | 9:00 am

You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD Jesus Christ.
 Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here!
 Whatever your gender identity, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.