



\*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 NMUMC on Facebook & share our livestream.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

**Prelude** Harlan Otter

**Words to Ponder:**

Christians around the world gather this day to share holy communion as one body—a body united in the love and mercy of Christ. We gather with them, rejoicing in our unity in Christ.

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit** "Morning Has Broken" Bell Choir  
Gaelic Folk Song

**\*Call to Worship** Jerry Jones

When we feel spiritually homeless, where can we turn for help?

**Our help is in the grace of God.**

When we are imprisoned in our suffering, where can we turn for solace?

**Our solace is in the mercy of Christ.**

When we are trapped in the grip of misfortune, where can we turn for strength?

**Our strength is in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Come! Let us worship God, our guide and guardian.

**\*Opening Prayer**

Merciful God, though you often feel far from us, you meet us in our need. When our mouths know the taste of bitter tears, you bring us to the feast of your love and mercy. When grief threatens to steal our joy, you remind us to sing of happier times. When adversaries enjoy our misfortune, you rekindle the hope that lies hidden within us. When fear robs us of our courage, you fill us with the daring to begin anew. Be with us in this time of worship, that we may be brought back to life, through the grace of your Son, who walks with us in the journey of faith. Amen.

**\*Hymn of Praise** "It's Me, It's Me O Lord" UMH#352

**\*Passing of the Peace Of Christ** Pastor Ed

**Children's Message**

WE HEAR THE WORD

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)** Jerry Jones

God of eternal return, in times of bitter loss, we yearn to be called home. How often have we felt like exiles of Israel who sat down by the waters of Babylon to weep at all they had lost? How often have we felt like Paul who was persecuted and locked away for his convictions and beliefs? Yet we cringe at Paul's invitation to join him in suffering for the gospel. We want to pick up our cross and be counted among the faithful, but we can't seem to leave our hurts behind. Help us be the people

you call us to be, and give us the courage to follow you anew in the power and strength of your loving Spirit. Amen.

**Words of Assurance** Pastor Ed

**Hymn of Response** "One Bread One Body" UMH#620

**Scripture Reading** Lamentations 1:1-6 Jerry Jones

**The Deserted City**

- 1** How lonely sits the city  
that once was full of people!  
How like a widow she has become,  
she that was great among the nations!  
She that was a princess among the provinces  
has become subject to forced labor.
- 2** She weeps bitterly in the night,  
with tears on her cheeks;  
among all her lovers,  
she has no one to comfort her;  
all her friends have dealt treacherously with her;  
they have become her enemies.
- 3** Judah has gone into exile with suffering  
and hard servitude;  
she lives now among the nations;  
she finds no resting place;  
her pursuers have all overtaken her  
in the midst of her distress.
- 4** The roads to Zion mourn,  
for no one comes to the festivals;  
all her gates are desolate;  
her priests groan;  
her young girls grieve,<sup>[a]</sup>  
and her lot is bitter.
- 5** Her foes have become the masters;  
her enemies prosper  
because the LORD has made her suffer  
for the multitude of her transgressions;  
her children have gone away,  
captives before the foe.
- 6** From daughter Zion has departed  
all her majesty.  
Her princes have become like stags  
that find no pasture;

they fled without strength  
before the pursuer.

*(Interlude)*

**\*Gospel Reading**

Luke 17:5-10

Jerry Jones

<sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup>The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a <sup>[a]</sup> mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

<sup>7</sup>"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? <sup>8</sup>Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? <sup>9</sup>Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? <sup>10</sup>So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

**Reflecting on God's Message**

"The A,B,C's of Grief"

Pastor Ed

**Prayers of the People**

**Invitation of the Offering**

Pastor Ed

**Offertory Anthem**

"In Remembrance of Me"

Chancel Choir

**\*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

You call us to bloom where we are planted, O God, even when we feel like strangers in a foreign land. You invite us to play instruments and sing songs of joy, even when our hearts are heavy, and our spirits cry out in anguish. God of tender mercy, you alone can turn our tears of sadness into tears of joy. May the gifts we bring before you this day turn groans of despair into shouts of mirth and gladness. Bless this offering with your abundant power, that the world may know your grace and find life in the midst of death. Amen.

COMMUNION

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

**\*Sending Hymn**

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

UMH#399

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

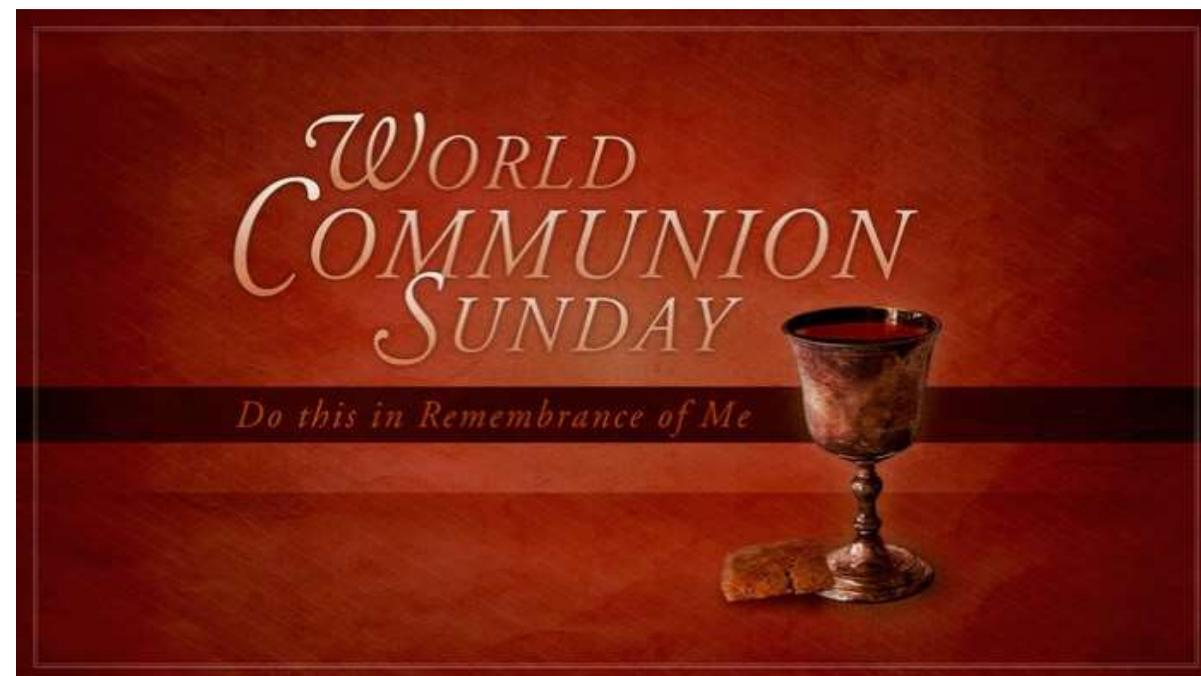
Harlan Otter

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Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams

Liturgist – Jerry Jones

Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10.2.2022 | 9:30 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.*