



*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 Patty Jacobson

Words to Ponder:

Pray without ceasing. Pray without giving up. Pray with tenacity, courage, and hope.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "Draw the Circle Wide" Chancel Choir
by Mark A. Miller

***Call to Worship** Zachary Caldwell

Called by God to be people of prayer,
we gather today as people of prayer.
Come, let us worship and pray together.

***Opening Prayer**

Mighty God, we come into your powerful presence with hope in our hearts. May we pray with the same focus and strength with which you receive our prayers. Flow through our prayers and our worship this day, that we may rediscover childlike trust, even as we mature in faith. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** "We Are the Church"(v1,2&5) UMH#558

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

Children's Message Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Zachary Caldwell

Faithful God, when our prayers are absent, speak to us and return our attention to you. When our prayers and attitudes are self-serving, humble us and bring us back to compassionate and caring ways. God of faith and God of glory, give us confidence when our faith falters. Empower us with your Spirit, that we may pray with confidence and faith, and with tenacity and courage, all the days of our lives. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

"Hear My Prayers O God"

W&S#3131

Scripture Reading

Psalm 197:97-104

Zachary Caldwell

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law!

It is my meditation all day long.

⁹⁸ Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is always with me.

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your decrees are my meditation.

¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the aged,
for I keep your precepts.

¹⁰¹ I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.

¹⁰² I do not turn away from your ordinances,
for you have taught me.

¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Luke 18:1-8

Zachary Caldwell

The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge

18 Then Jesus^[a] told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. **2** He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. **3** In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' **4** For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, **5** yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' "^[b] **6** And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. **7** And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? **8** I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Reflecting on God's Message

"Because Jesus is the Answer"

Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Pastor Ed

Blessing of the Plaques

Pastor Ed

Invitation of the Offering

Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem "Break Every Chain" Chancel Choir
by Will Reagan

***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
Mighty God, bestow your power and strength on these gifts we now return to you. Multiply them as they go forth to serve your church and your world. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

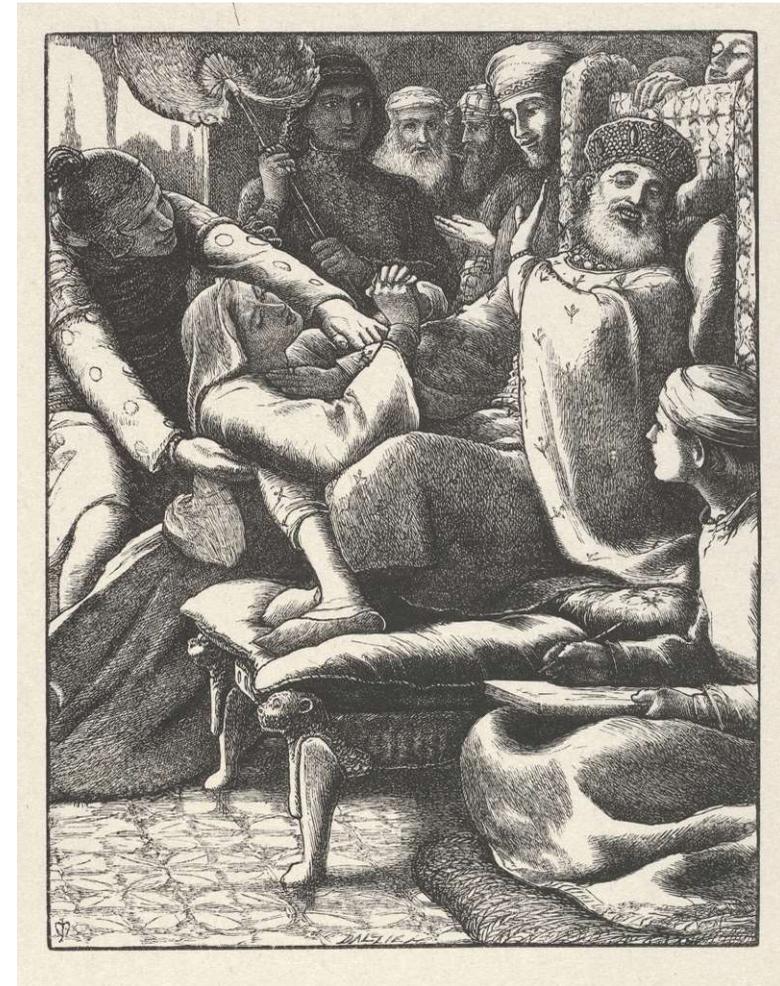
***Sending Hymn** "Be Thou My Vision" UMH#451

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 Harlan Otter



*Millais, John Everett, 1829-1896. Unjust Judge and the Importunate Widow

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost | 10.16.2022 | 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.

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | www.newmilfordumc.org | 860.354.4596
Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams
Liturgist – Zachary Caldwell

Ministers:
All members of the New Milford UMC