



*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:

Wake up! God is near. Wake up! God is here.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "Only a Baby Came" Chancel Choir
by Natalie Sleeth

Lighting of The Advent Wreath The Jacobson Family

***Call to Worship** Jerry Jones

Come, let's go together to God's mountain—

a mountain of God's glory and peace.

Let's prepare for Christ's arrival—

the birth of the prince of peace.

Come, let's worship the Spirit of love.

Clothed in Christ's love, we are ready to worship and pray.

***Opening Prayer**

Draw near to us, O God, even as we draw near to you. Open our hearts and our minds to your presence and wake us up from the sleep and inattention holding us back. Prepare us to receive your love, even as we prepare our lives to celebrate the joy of Christ's birth. In joyful hope, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" UMH#196

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

Children's Message Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Jerry Jones

Even when we're tired, Lord, we long to awake to your presence. Even when we're distracted, we yearn to be held spellbound by your power. Even when we're lost and wander away from you, we hope to rest safely in the arms of your grace. Wake us from

sleep, O God; reveal your love and mercy, and grant us the peace of your redemption. In humble gratitude, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response "The Risen Christ" W&S#3179

(Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** Matthew 6:25-34 Jerry Jones

Do Not Worry

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink,^[a] or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? **26** Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? **27** And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life?^[b] **28** And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, **29** yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. **30** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? **31** Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' **32** For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God^[c] and his^[d] righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **34** "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Reflecting on God's Message "Worrywarts All." Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem "Calypso Lullaby" Chancel Choir
by Joel Raney

***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

Gracious God, as we bring our gifts to you, we bring much more than earthly treasure; we bring our very lives. Transform us through our giving, that we may grow ever closer to you. Help us share your peace and love with others as joyfully and generously, as you have shared your gifts with us. In your holy name, we pray. Amen

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn**

“People, Look East”

UMH#202

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

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 – Jerry Jones
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



* Tile from Peace Wall in Hamilton, New Zealand

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11.27.2022 | 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.