



*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:

Signs of Advent hope and peace abound. Let us catch God's vision for our world.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"Twas the Moon of Wintertime"

Bell Choir

arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The O'Rourke Family

***Call to Worship**

Patty Dayton

May your earth yield prosperity for everyone, O God.

May the poor be defended, the oppressed delivered.

May enemies live in peace.

May no one hurt or destroy.

May all the world rejoice.

May we be agents of your joy and peace, for this is your mighty vision for our world.

May timid hearts turn bold.

May we believe it can be so.

***Opening Prayer**

Visionary God, in this season of preparation and reflection, let us see, as through your eyes, the way the world can be. Hope, peace, joy, and love are more than just nice things that could be. Help us work to make them really be— as clothing and water, as food and fire. Make us bearers of your promise to the world, that all may know the power of your holy love. 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)

Patty Dayton

We thank you, O God, for bearers of hope and peace in all times and all places: for those who govern, when they set things right for the poor, meek and needy; for anointed prophets, who speak and act in your spirit— in wisdom, understanding, and equity. And we thank you for reminders, gentle or urgent, that we, too, should be agents of harmony, reconciliation, peace, justice, and righteousness. Make us advocates of your vision for the world. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

"Spirit of the Living God"

UMH#393

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Patty Dayton

The Peaceful Kingdom

11 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow^[a] out of his roots.

2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

3 His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

4 but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

6 The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed^[b] together, and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Return of the Remnant of Israel and Judah

10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

(Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 3:1-12

Patty Dayton

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, **2** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."^[a] **3** This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

4 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5** Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, **6** and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. **7** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his^[b] baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? **8** Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, **9** and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. **10** Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. **11** “I baptize you with^[c] water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with^[d] the Holy Spirit and fire. **12** His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Reflecting on God’s Message “That’s All I Can Stand and I Can’t Stand No More” Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”
arr. Harry Simeone

Chancel Choir

***Doxology**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
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

UMH #95

Offering Prayer

We thank you, Holy One, for all your good gifts, especially the gifts of prophecy, promise, and calls for preparation. As a thankful response to these gifts, we offer our belief, our commitments, our money, that we may hasten the time when no one will hurt or destroy on all God’s holy mountain.
(Joanne Brown)

Pastor Ed

COMMUNION

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn**

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

UMH#217

Benediction

Postlude

Harlan Otter

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Liturgist – Patty Dayton
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



* John the Baptist

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12.4.2022 | 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.***