



***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:

Where there is darkness, there is also light. Look for the light—places of love, joy, grace, and hope.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Bell Choir
arr. Valerie W. Stephenson

***Call to Worship** Bonnie Weed

We come seeking God,
the one who guides us and protects us.
People of God, there is nothing to fear,
for God dwells in our hearts.
Let us shout with joy, for God is here!
Let us sing praises to the Holy One!

***Opening Prayer**

God of light, we come tired and weary, carrying many burdens.
We come wondering if you are even here.
We come seeking your face, seeking your love.
In this moment, Holy One, open our hearts to the mystery of your love.
Remind us that you are always with us and that you never leave us.
Reassure us that you love us, even as you invite us to love one another.
In this time and space, may we say "yes" to you.
In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** "Lord of the Dance" (v1,2&5) UMH#261

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

Children's Message Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Bonnie Weed

Merciful God, as we seek your love and light, there are times when darkness invades our lives.
Forgive us when we hide our true selves from you.
Forgive us when we quarrel with one another, allowing our pride to overcome our commitment to the community.
Forgive us when we give life's activities priority over following the ways of Christ.

O God, open our hearts to your grace, as you once again fill us with your love and light.
Amen.

Words of Assurance Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" (v1,2&4) UMH#348

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:1-4 Bonnie Weed

The Righteous Reign of the Coming King

9 [a]But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 [b]The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

3 You have multiplied exultation; [c] you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

4 For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** Matthew 4:12-23 Bonnie Weed

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

12 Now when Jesus [a] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. **13** He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, **14** so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15 "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." [b]

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. **19** And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." **20** Immediately they left their nets and followed him. **21** As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. **22** Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People

23 Jesus^[e] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news^[d] of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Reflecting on God’s Message “Essential Personnel” Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory anthem “In the Bleak Midwinter” Chancel Choir
by Gustav Holst

***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

Loving God, light of the world, we thank you for these gifts.
May they share your joy and your hope, bringing reconciliation and help to those seeking to walk in your ways.
In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** “Shine, Jesus, Shine” TFWS#2173

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



* Duccio, di Buoninsegna, -1319?. Christ Calling the Apostles Peter and Andrew

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

1.22.2023 | 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 – Bonnie Weed | Acolyte – Giovanni
Ministers:
All members of the New Milford UMC