



***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:

What blessings do you need this morning? Where in life are you struggling? God will be there and give you what you need.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "Ihr Kinderlein, Kommet" Chancel Choir
by Christoph con Schmid

***Call to Worship** Patty Dayton

What does God require of us?

God wants justice.

What else does God want?

God wants faithful love.

Anything else?

God wants us to walk humbly with God.

***Opening Prayer**

Come, Holy Wisdom, and show us your ways.

In our confusing world, many voices demand our attention.

Teach us to look with your eyes.

Help us walk humbly beside you— doing what is right, speaking your truth.

You alone are our guide and guardian on paths of peace and reconciliation. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** "Here I am to Worship" W&S#3177

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

Children's Message Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Patty Dayton

God of compassion, we are overwhelmed by the struggles of life.

We hunger and thirst for righteousness, but find ourselves feeling empty.

We grieve in seasons of loss, feeling hopeless and lost.

We want to show mercy, but we hold on to old resentments.

We want to make peace, but we don't even know where to begin.

Come with your wisdom and guide us in your ways.

Renew us and inspire us to live faithfully, as you walk beside us. Amen.

Words of Assurance Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response "Trust and Obey" (v1,2&4)

UMH#467

Scripture Reading Micah 6:1-8

Patty Dayton

God Challenges Israel

6 Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

3 "O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

What God Requires

6 "With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** Matthew 5:1-12

Patty Dayton

The Beatitudes

5 When Jesus^[a] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^[b] on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Reflecting on God’s Message “Blessed Are Those” Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory anthem "What Does the Lord Require of You?/Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil" Chancel Choir
by John Bell

***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

Generous God, you give us all we need.
You ask only for faithful living in return.
We bring these gifts to you today, that they may support your work of justice.
Through this offering, we commit ourselves to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with you.
Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** “Lord, I Want to be a Christian” UMH#402

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

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Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams
Liturgist – Patty Dayton | Acolyte – Bella
Ministers:
All members of the New Milford UMC



* Weyden, Rogier van der, 1399 or 1400-1464. Mary's Tears, detail from Descent from the Cross

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

1.29.2023 | 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.