



+\*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 if we recognized the image of God within us? What if we celebrated that we are God's beloved from the beginning of our existence? What if we claimed being chosen and destined for a loving purpose? How would we live and respond?

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Introit

""Ihr Kinderlein, kommet"  
by Christoph von Schmid

Chancel Choir

#### \*Call to Worship

Created in God's loving image,

**we gather as the children of God.**

Beloved by Christ, who loves us well,

**we gather as the beloved body of Christ.**

Blessed by the Spirit of God,

**we gather in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Carolyn Nuzzi

#### \*Opening Prayer

Beloved God, we gather as your beloved community in the name of your beloved Son, Christ Jesus.

Speak to us with your love and your grace.

Part the clouds of our frantic lives and our harried world, that we may recognize your Spirit moving in our very midst.

Speak, for your servants are listening. Amen.

#### \*Hymn of Praise

"Fairest Lord Jesus" (v1,2&4)

UMH#189

#### \*Passing of the Peace Of Christ

Pastor Ed

### WE HEAR THE WORD

#### Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Carolyn Nuzzi

Beloved God, who calls us together in love, even as we rejoice in your love, we ask that you strengthen our love for one another.

Embolden us to love our adversaries and be kind to those who wrong us. Cover us with your amazing grace, that we might love ourselves, despite all of our misgivings, self-doubts, and wrongdoings.

Guide us to live in your mercy, that we may remember our baptismal call, and live as those who are chosen and beloved. In your mercy and love, we pray. Amen.

#### Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

#### Hymn of Response

"Song of Hope"

TFWS#2186

#### Scripture Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Carolyn Nuzzi

#### **Gentiles Hear the Good News**

**34** Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, **35** but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness<sup>[a]</sup> is acceptable to him. **36** You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. **37** That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: **38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **39** We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, **40** but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, **41** not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42** He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. **43** All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

#### *(Interlude)*

#### \*Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Carolyn Nuzzi

#### **The Baptism of Jesus**

**13** Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. **14** John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" **15** But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. **16** And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. **17** And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved,<sup>[a]</sup> with whom I am well pleased."

#### Reflecting on God's Message

"Rejoice And Remember Your Baptism."

Pastor Ed

**Prayers of the People**

**Invitation of the Offering**

Pastor Ed

**Offertory Anthem**

"Down to the River the Pray"  
American Folk Song

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**

Pastor Ed

Glory and strength are yours, O God. May these gifts be offerings of glory and strength, bringing the glory of your love, and the strength of your grace, to those who need them most. In your precious name, we pray. Amen.

**COMMUNION**

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**\*Sending Hymn**

"When Jesus Came to Jordan"

UMH#252

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Harlan Otter



\* Cagnola, Giovanni and Francesco. Baptism of Christ

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**1.8.2023 | 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.**

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Liturgist – Carolyn Nuzzi | Acolyte – Gabriel Lora  
Ministers:  
*All members of the New Milford UMC*