



*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:

Through Moses the Lord God gave us the law, his commandments. From the fulness of Jesus we have all received grace upon grace already given. Let us all have ears to hear and eyes to see!

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "God Leads Us Along" Chancel Choir
by G.A. Young

***Call to Worship** Rosaura Frias

You're blessed when you stay on course,

Walking steadily on the road God revealed

You're blessed when you follow his directions.

Doing your best to find him.

You God, prescribed the right way to live.

Now you expect us to live it.

*Adapted from the Message Psalm 119:1-4

***Opening Prayer**

Oh Lord, keep me to the course you set, Keep my steps steady.

Then I would have no regrets, in comparing my life with your counsel.

Thank-you for speaking straight from your heart.

I learn from your righteous ways.

I'm going to do what you tell me to do

Don't ever walk off and leave me.

*Adapted from the Message Psalm 119:5-8

***Hymn of Praise** "God of Grace and God of Glory" UMH#577

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ** Chuck Samson

Children's Message Chuck Samson

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Rosaura Frias

Merciful God, we confess that we have not always taken upon ourselves the yoke of obedience, nor been willing to do your perfect will. We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind and soul, neither have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. You have given us the right way to live through the commandments given through Moses and perfected through the grace and mercy shown to us by Jesus the Christ. In our pride or unwillingness we have turned away and grieved your Holy Spirit.

*Adapted from a Wesleyan prayer

Words of Assurance Chuck Samson

Hymn of Response "Surely the Presence" UMH#328
Chuck Samson Lead/Guitar

Scripture Reading Deuteronomy 50:15-20 Rosaura Frias

15 "See, I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil. 16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God[a] which I command you this day, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his ordinances, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to take possession of it. 17 But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you this day, that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land which you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice, and cleaving to him; for that means life to you and length of days, that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** Matthew 5:21-27 Rosaura Frias

Matthew 5:21-37

Concerning Anger

21 "You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother[a] shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults[b] his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell[c] of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison; 26 truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny.

Concerning Adultery

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.[d] 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.[e]

Concerning Divorce

31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Concerning Oaths

33 "Again you have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' 34 But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not swear by your head,

Reflecting on God's Message

Chuck Samson

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering

Chuck Samson

Offertory anthem

"Child of God"

Chancel Choir

African-American Spiritual

*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

Chuck Samson

Lord, it is in your mercy and grace we have received what we have. Bless our portion, our donations of money, time and talent that we offer the church. Bless and multiply these gifts so that the most benefit will come from this churches efforts.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*Sending Hymn

"Pass it On"

UMH#572

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



*Inness, George, 1825-1894. Rainbow in the Berkshire Hills

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

2.12.2023 | 9:30 am

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | www.newmilfordumc.org | 860.354.4596

Lay Speaker, Chuck Samson | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams

Liturgist – Rosaura Frias | Acolyte – Chloe

Ministers:

All members of the New Milford UMC

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.