



*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:

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Jesus says so.
Be salty and let your light shine

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

““God Leads Us Along”

Chancel Choir

by G.A. Young

***Call to Worship**

Happy are those who worship the Lord and delight in God’s precepts.

They rise before dawn as a light to the upright.

They are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

They shine their light before others for all the world to see.

They will never be moved.

Let this be our worship.

***Opening Prayer**

You do not desire a fast of sackcloth and ashes, but a fast of righteous.

You ask us to loose the bonds of injustice, undo the thongs of the yoke, and set the captives free.

Train our hearts to do what is right, O God, not what is easy.

May we live our days among the righteous, that we may never be moved, but dwell secure in your mercy and your grace. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

“Shout to the Lord”

TFWS#2074

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children’s Message

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Rosaura Frias

Caretaker of our souls, aid us in our quest.

We long to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

We yearn to live with such passion and purpose that our lives may be like a city on a hill, resplendent in justice and righteousness for all the world to see.

Shine through us this day, for we seek to reflect your glory in all that we say and in all that we do. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

“Here I am Lord”

UMH#593

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 58:3-9

Rosaura Frias

3 “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

4 You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

5 Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

6 Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator^[a] shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

(Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 5:13-20

Rosaura Frias

Salt and Light

13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. **15** People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Law and the Prophets

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. **18** For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter,^[a] not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. **19** Therefore, whoever breaks^[a] one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but

whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **20** For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Reflecting on God's Message "Faith in Action." Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem "For the Beauty of the Earth" Chancel Choir
Arr. Ron Huff

Congregation words for the final refrain:

*Christ our God to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.
Christ our God to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

***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

Radiant One, source of every good gift, we thank you for the light you shine in our lives;
we praise you for the joy you bring to our hearts.
Receive the gifts we bring before you this day, that they may loose the bonds of injustice, undo the thongs of the yoke, feed the hungry, and let the oppressed go free.
Bless this offering and the ministries it supports, that your light may chase away the shadows
in places lost to hopelessness and despair.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

COMMUNION UMH PAGE 18

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** "It is Well with my Soul" UMH#377
"Amen" Chancel Choir UMH#898

Benediction

Postlude Harlan Otter

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



* Moyers, Mike. Shine, from Art in the Christian Tradition

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

2.5.2023 | 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.*