



*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:

Happy are those whose transgressions are forgiven and whose sin is covered.

Rejoice and be glad, you upright in heart.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Choir

***Call to Worship**

Temptation surrounds us every day.

Happy are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Opportunities to stray litter our path.

Happy are those whose sin is covered.

Though we stumble and fall, God's mercy picks us up.

God's grace brushes us off.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice,

God's love meets us here.

***Opening Prayer**

Righteous God, we need your presence in our lives if we are to resist temptation.

Send your angels to minister to us when the tempter comes to call.

Put not our hearts to the test, but shelter us in your protective love.

For you are our God and we are your people. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

"Lord, I Lift Your Name Up High" (x3)

TFWS#2088

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Ed Dayton

Children's Message

Ed Dayton

Special Treat

"Jesus Loves Me"

Childrens' Bell Choir

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Bonnie Weed

God of wilderness wanderings,

many things tempt us;

many forces cause our feet to stray.

Save us from the time of trial, for we easily succumb to temptation;

we often heed voices that cause us to stray.

Return us to the garden of your abiding love, for we yearn to walk with you with faithful hearts

and upright spirits. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Ed Dayton

Hymn of Response

"In the Singing"

TFWS#2255

Scripture Reading

Romans 5:12-19 (message)

Bonnie Weed

The Death-Dealing Sin, the Life-Giving Gift

12-14 You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. That sin disturbed relations with God in everything and everyone, but the extent of the disturbance was not clear until God spelled it out in detail to Moses. So death, this huge abyss separating us from God, dominated the landscape from Adam to Moses. Even those who didn't sin precisely as Adam did by disobeying a specific command of God still had to experience this termination of life, this separation from God. But Adam, who got us into this, also points ahead to the One who will get us out of it.

15-17 Yet the rescuing gift is not exactly parallel to the death-dealing sin. If one man's sin put crowds of people at the dead-end abyss of separation from God, just think what God's gift poured through one man, Jesus Christ, will do! There's no comparison between that death-dealing sin and this generous, life-giving gift. The verdict on that one sin was the death sentence; the verdict on the many sins that followed was this wonderful life sentence. If death got the upper hand through one man's wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, absolute life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides?

18-19 Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 4-1-11

Bonnie Weed

The Testing of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. **2** He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." **4** But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, 9 and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Reflecting on God's Message

"On the Other Hand..."

Ed Dayton

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering

Ed Dayton

Offertory anthem

Choir

***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

Ed Dayton

Merciful One, we do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from your mouth. Still, we seek your blessing upon this offering, for many are hungry and need food, many are naked and need clothes, many are homeless and need shelter. May these gifts reflect the depth of our gratitude as they go into the world. In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn**

"Amazing Grace"

UMH#378

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 | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams

Liturgist – Bonnie Weed | Acolyte – Leo Jacobson

Ministers:

All members of the New Milford UMC



*Heavenly Paradise, from Art in the Christian Tradition

First Sunday of Lent

2.26.2023 | 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.