



*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:

In this sacred moment, we look for God and find the promise of hope, steadfast love, and new beginnings.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Bell Choir

by Lowell Mason

***Call to Worship**

Bonnie Weed

Come, all who are weary.

Here, we wait for the Lord.

Come, all who have turned away from God.

Here, we find forgiveness and healing.

Come, all who look for hope.

Here, we embrace God's steadfast love.

Come, and fill your hearts with praise and thanksgiving.

Let us praise God!

***Opening Prayer**

Great God of comfort and healing, we come today with many questions:

"How will we survive the challenges of this day?

Can we get through our moments of loss and grief?

Will we be comforted when our tears flow like mighty streams?"

In the midst of our questions, we hear voices of assurance and comfort.

"I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.

With the Lord there is steadfast love.

The Spirit of God dwells in you.

You will see the glory of God."

May these voices remind us of your abiding presence, and your steadfast love.

Thank you for walking with us throughout our days.

In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

"Lord of the Dance" (v1,2&5)

UMH#261

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children's Message

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Bonnie Weed

O Lord, there are times when we are so lost we forget to look to you.

Forgive us when we turn away from your love.

Forgive us when we doubt our own feelings and the feelings of others.

Forgive us when we forget that your Holy Spirit dwells within us.

Help us see your love and your presence in our lives.

Help us trust you no matter what life may bring, and help us follow you faithfully. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

"Spirit of the Living God"

UMH#393

***Scripture Reading**

Ezekiel 37:11-14

Bonnie Weed

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

John 11:1-45

Bonnie Weed

The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. **3** So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,^[a] "Lord, he whom you love is ill." **4** But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." **5** Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, **6** after having heard that Lazarus^[a] was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." **8** The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" **9** Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. **10** But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." **11** After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." **12** The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."^[c] **13** Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. **14** Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. **15** For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." **16** Thomas, who was called the Twin,^[d] said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus^[e] had already been in the tomb four days. **18** Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, **19** and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. **20** When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. **21** Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." **23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." **24** Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.^[f] Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **27** She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,^[g] the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Jesus Weeps

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." **29** And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. **30** Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. **31** The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was

going to the tomb to weep there. **32** When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” **33** When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. **34** He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” **35** Jesus began to weep. **36** So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” **37** But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. **39** Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” **40** Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” **41** So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. **42** I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” **43** When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” **44** The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

The Plot to Kill Jesus

45 Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

Reflecting on God’s Message

“Amazing Grace.”

Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering

Pastor Ed

Offertory anthem

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

Chancel Choir

By Chris Tomlin

***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

Abundant God, thank you for the gifts we bring to you.
 May these gifts bring new life to those who are in need in our community and in the world.
 In your beloved name, we pray. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn**

“He Lives.”

UMH#310

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 – Chloe Jacobson Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



* Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890. Raising of Lazarus

Fifth Sunday in Lent

3.26.2023 | 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.