



*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 "Praise God For This Holy Ground" Chancel Choir
by John L. Bell

***Call to Worship** Chuck Samson

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** "God Be the Glory" UMH#98

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ** Pastor Ed

Children's Message Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Chuck Samson

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 Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response "Come to the Garden" UMH#314

Old Testament Reading Genesis 12.:1-4 Chuck Samson

The Call of Abram

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2** I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."^[a]

4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

New Testament Reading Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Chuck Samson

The Example of Abraham

4 What then are we to say was gained by^[a] Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? **2** For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. **3** For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed^[b] God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." **4** Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. **5** But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

God's Promise Realized through Faith

13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. **14** For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. **15** For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

16 For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, **17** as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed,^[a] who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

(Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** John 3:16-17 Chuck Samson

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Reflecting on God's Message "Abraham Believed God." Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering

Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem

"Kyrie"
by Antonin Dvorak

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

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.

COMMUNION

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn**

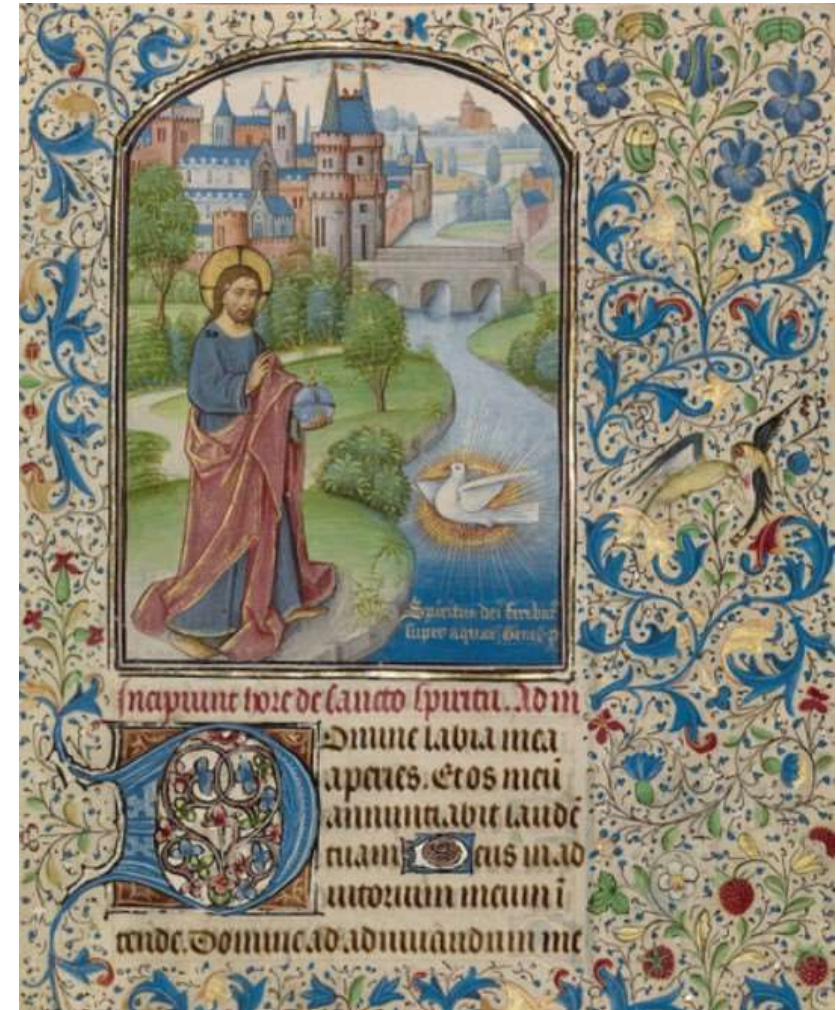
"Freely, Freely "

UMH#389

Benediction

Postlude

Harlan Otter



* Vrelant, Guillaume, -1481. Savior of the World

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

3.5.2023 | 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.

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | www.newmilfordumc.org | 860.354.4596
Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams
Liturgist – Chuck Samson | Acolyte – Bella O'Rourke
Ministers:
All members of the New Milford UMC