



*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 the midst of confusion and doubt, Love walks beside us.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“Hosanna, Hosanna”
By Cathy Townley

Chancel Choir

***Call to Worship**

Come walk with us.

We will join the journey.

Let us talk together.

We will listen and speak.

Christ goes with us.

Jesus guides our steps.

Carolyn Nuzzi

***Opening Prayer**

Holy One, we are often confused by the events in our world.

Come and walk with us.

Open our hearts to hear your truth.

Plant the seed of new life within us.

In trust of your loving presence, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

“Easter People Raise Your Voices”

UMH#304

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children’s Message

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Carolyn Nuzzi

God of love and compassion, we often fail to understand the truth of your love.

We are frequently confused and filled with doubt.

Life can feel meaningless.

We wander down the pathways of life, longing to see our way more clearly.

Open our eyes this day, that we may see your way of love and grace.

Meet our confusion with the truth of your presence.

Feed us with the true bread of life, and help us change our hearts and lives, that we may follow you with joy. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

“To God be the Glory”

UMH#98

***Scripture Reading**

1 Peter 1:3-9

Carolyn Nuzzi

A Living Hope

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead **4** and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you rejoice,^[a] even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, **7** so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. **8** Although you have not seen^[b] him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, **9** for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.^[c]

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

John 20:19-31

Carolyn Nuzzi

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” **22** When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Jesus and Thomas

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” **28** Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” **29** Jesus said

to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. **31** But these are written so that you may continue^[2] to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,^[3] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reflecting on God's Message "Doubt," The Opposite of Faith. Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory anthem "Sabbath Prayer"
by Jerry Bock Chancel 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 Pastor Ed

God of love, source of all goodness, you hear our cries and you answer.
With grateful hearts, we bring our gifts to you.
We bring our offerings, as a gift of thanksgiving for your presence in our lives.
We are your servants, and we offer ourselves with joy. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** "Thine Be the Glory" UMH#308

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 – Carolyn Nuzzi
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



* Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, 1606-1669. Supper at Emmaus

Third Sunday of Easter

4.23.2023 | 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.