



\*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:**

God of goodness and mercy, follow me all my days!  
Source of grace and compassion, flow from me all my days!

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

Choir

**\*Call to Worship**

Martha McMahon

Hear Jesus's great truth:  
I am the gate for the sheep!  
**We recognize this voice.**  
**We've heard these words before.**  
Come in! You belong here!  
You are safe and cared for here!  
**We recognize the voice of our shepherd.**  
Follow and find green pastures and still waters!  
**We hear his voice.**  
I come to give life and give it abundantly.  
**Come one, come all!**

**\*Opening Prayer**

Risen Savior, Reliable Shepherd, we hear your voice calling us to follow.  
We remember our ancient brothers and sisters who gathered in prayer and praise.  
Today, we too gather in prayer and praise.  
Enliven us with your resurrection power—a power that frees us from despair.  
Enliven us with your abundant life.  
May your living power flow through us in all we are and do! Amen.

**\*Hymn of Praise**

"I Come With Joy" (v1-2, &5)

UMH#617

**\*Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

**Children's Message**

Pastor Ed

**WE HEAR THE WORD**

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

Martha McMahon

Loving Savior, Shepherd with the voice we know, be with us when we stray.  
For we often hear the voices of strangers and follow them to dry pastures and dark valleys.  
We forget your voice of love and begin to feel small and lost.  
We fear that we will not have enough to go on, much less have a surplus to offer others.  
And yet you know us by heart and by name.  
Call us once again.  
Restore our souls.  
Walk ahead of us on the right paths, and we will follow you.  
Remembering your voice, we pray. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

Pastor Ed

**Hymn of Response**

"Lead Me, Guide Me" (x2)

TFWS#2214

**\*Scripture Reading**

Acts 2:42- 47

Martha McMahon

**42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

**Life among the Believers**

**43** Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44** All who believed were together and had all things in common; **45** they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds<sup>[a]</sup> to all, as any had need. **46** Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home<sup>[a]</sup> and ate their food with glad and generous<sup>[c]</sup> hearts, **47** praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

*(Musical Interlude)*

**\*Gospel Reading**

John 10:1-10

Martha McMahon

**Jesus the Good Shepherd**

**10** "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. **2** The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. **5** They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." **6** Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. **7** So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All who came before me<sup>[a]</sup> are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9** I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Reflecting on God's Message "Why?" Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

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 Pastor Ed

God of Abundant Life, Host of our Table, we devote ourselves and these gifts to your vision of a community that meets the needs of any and all.

We give our gifts of money and work, of prayer and praise, of presence and purpose to our friends and neighbors.

Bless our offering, that it may meet the needs, both small and large, of your great and generous blessings. Amen.

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

\*Sending Hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians" TFWS#2223

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



# Fourth Sunday of Easter

**4.30.2023 | 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.*

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Pastor Ed Dayton | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams  
Liturgist – Martha McMahan | Acolyte – Giovanni Lora  
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*