



***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

Centering Words:

When grief holds sway and you feel lost and abandoned . . . join Mary and the women in the garden, as they cast aside their funeral spices to rejoice in awe and wonder. Fear is healed by hope this day. Death is swallowed up in victory.

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** Terri Hudak

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The crucified one is risen in glory.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing.

It is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***Opening Prayer**

God of mystery and might, when we dread the dawn of grief and pain, surprise us with the light of your wondrous love.

We come to the tomb expecting death, but find life instead.

As we behold the glory of our salvation, take us back to that moment of faith when fear was healed by hope and death was swallowed up by life.

In the holy awe of Easter morning, may our hearts rest in silent gratitude before they shout that Christ is alive and has called us by name.

***Hymn of Praise** "Christ the Lord is Risen Today (v1-4)" UMH#302

WE HEAR THE WORD

Scripture Reading Colossians 3:1-14 Terri Hudak

The New Life in Christ

3 So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on

earth, **3** for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your^[a] life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). **6** On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient.^[b] **7** These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.^[c] **8** But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive^[d] language from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices **10** and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. **11** In that renewal^[e] there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

12 Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. **13** Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord^[f] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** Matthew 28:1-10 Terri Hudak

The Resurrection of Jesus

28 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. **2** And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. **4** For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. **5** But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. **6** He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he^[a] lay. **7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead,^[b] and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." **8** So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. **9** Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Reflecting on God's Message "Surprise." Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People Pastor Ed

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offering Prayer Pastor Ed

Living God, you give us the greatest gift of all, the gift of new life.

Grateful for this gift, we bring our offerings, the work of our hands.

Use our gifts to share your word of hope, your promise of forgiveness,

and your blessings with all creation.
Grateful for your love, we offer ourselves, that we might walk with our neighbors into your garden
of love. Amen.

*Doxology UMH # 95
"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

COMMUNION

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*Sending Hymn UMH#162
"Alleluia, Alleluia"

Benediction (responsive)

Christ is Risen! Go forth in joy.
From darkness and despair, we go to share Christ's hope and joy.
Christ is Risen! Go forth in faith.
From doubt and betrayal, we go to walk in faith and fidelity.
Christ is Risen! Go forth to live.
From suffering and death, we go to heal a broken world.
Christ is Risen.
Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia.

Postlude Harlan Otter



* Manigault, Edward Middleton, 1887-1922. Christ Appearing to Mary

Easter Sunrise Service | 4.9.2023 | 6:00 am

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Pastor Ed Dayton - 860.354.4596 | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams
Liturgist – Terri Hudak
Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC

*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.*