



*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:

Long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "Come, Join the Dance of Trinity" Chancel Choir
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

***Call to Worship** Scott Caldwell

L. O God, the Holy Spirit, come among us;

P. **Come as the wind and cleanse us;**

L. come as the fire and burn; come as the dew and refresh;

P. **convict, convert and consecrate many hearts and lives to our greater glory;**

L. and this we ask in Jesus Christ's sake

All. **Amen.**

***Opening Prayer**

Lord let us have ears that hear and eyes that see; let us be among those who upon hearing the good news offered be Jesus, that we may be among those who number among the believers, if necessary, help us in our disbelief.

***Hymn of Praise** "Breathe on Me Breath of God" UMH#420

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ** Chuck Samson

Children's Message Chuck Samson

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Scott Caldwell

Merciful God, there have been times when we have been tempted to follow false Gods, to put our efforts into things that do harm to your kingdom. At times we have not loved our neighbor as you have loved us, even lost sight of how much you have done so. Instead of

acting in faith, we may have wondered, 'where is God?' and doubted. We may have substituted, meaningless ritual for truly sacrificial acts of worship of the one God, that would be worthy of your name.

Words of Assurance

Chuck Samson

Morning Psalm:

Psalm 66:8-20 Music, Song and Response UMH# 790

Centering Song: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" UMH#334

***Epistle Reading** 1 Peter 3:13-22 Scott Caldwell

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right,^[a] you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear,^[b] and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned,^[c] those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered^[d] for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you^[e] to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for^[f] a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** John 14:15-21 Scott Caldwell

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Reflecting on God's Message "Two Are Better Than One" Chuck Samson

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Chuck Samson

Offertory Anthem "Thank God for the Promise of Spring" Chancel Choir
by William Gaither

*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 Chuck Samson

Lord great provider, bless these gifts we offer, but a portion of what we have received. Bless our tithes, talents, and time we offer to your church that your word may go forth in our community, to the benefit of all ministries done here in your name to your glory.
AMEN

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*Sending Hymn "Walk With Me" TFWS#2242

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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Lay Speaker, Chuck Samson | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams
Liturgist – Scott Caldwell | Acolyte – Marcos Lora
Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC



• Hands, all together, from Art in the Christian Tradition

Sixth Sunday of Easter

5.14.2023 | 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.