



*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:

Christ, the living stone and cornerstone of our faith, is building us into spiritual houses and a holy priesthood.

Let us open ourselves to the master builder

Welcome and Announcements

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

***Call to Worship** Patty Dayton

Once we were not a people.

Now we are God's people.

Once we ate food that did not satisfy.

Now we drink the spiritual milk of our Lord.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

***Opening Prayer**

Merciful God, our refuge and our strength, train our hearts on the words of your Son:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Believe in God, believe also in me."

Feed our souls with your spiritual milk, and build our very lives into spiritual houses that neither famine nor storm can shake the foundation of our faith.

In the name of the master builder and the living stone, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** "The Churches One Foundation" (v1-2&5) UMH#545

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

Children's Message Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Patty Dayton

Living God, in times of spiritual homelessness, we long to hear Jesus's assurance that he has prepared a place for us;

we yearn to be formed by the Master Builder into spiritual houses, like living stones.

Grant us the courage of Stephen and the confidence of Peter, as we strive to be a holy priesthood,

In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response "His Eye is on the Sparrow" TFWS#2146

Scripture Reading Acts 7:55-60 Patty Dayton

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.^[a]

(Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** John 14:1-14 Patty Dayton

Jesus the Way to the Father

14 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe^[a] in God; believe also in me. **2** In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[b] **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. **4** And you know the way to the place where I am going."^[c] **5** Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" **6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you know me, you will know^[d] my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."^[e] **8** Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." **9** Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? **10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. **11** Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe^[e] because of the works themselves. **12** Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the

Father. **13** I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If in my name you ask me^[†] for anything, I will do it.

Reflecting on God's Message "I Am The Way and The Truth And The Life" Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem "I'll Fly Away" Chancel Choir
by Albert Brumley

***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 overflowing abundance, you feed our spirits with spiritual milk and nourish our souls with heavenly food.

You are our fortress and our rock when the snares of this world threatened to overwhelm us.

In gratitude for your mercy and your many blessings, we offer you our gifts and our ministries,
that a wounded world might know your grace. Amen.

COMMUNION

Communion Anthem "One Bread, One Body" UMH#620

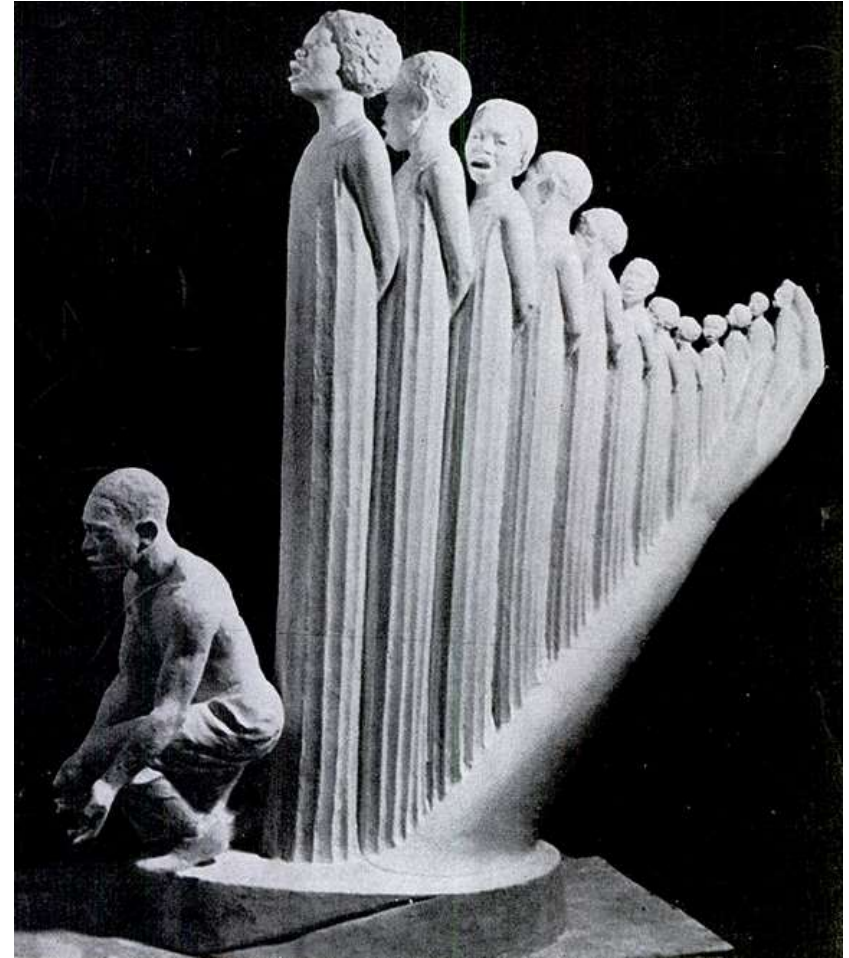
WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** "Send Me Lord" UMH#497

Benediction

Postlude Harlan Otter

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 – Patty Dayton | Acolyte – Bella O'Rourke
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



* Savage, Augusta, 1892-1962. Lift Every Voice and Sing, or, The Harp

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5.7.2023 | 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.**