



*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:

Come into God's presence and relinquish all fear.

Let go of life as you know it and discover life everlasting.

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Incline your ear, O God.

Hear the praises of your people.

Gladden the hearts of your servants, as we lift up our souls to you.

For you, O God, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love.

In the day of trouble we call on you, knowing you will answer.

Your people everywhere glorify your name.

For you are slow to anger, and abound in steadfast love.

Turn to us and be gracious.

*Opening Prayer

Thank you, Loving Spirit, for the warmth of summer and for your invitation to embrace abundant life.

Your promise of resurrection allows past troubles to die, as we rise with you to new life.

Inspire us to follow your lead, even when it requires us to bear a cross of sacrifice in your name.

May our love for you be complete, as we share words and acts of compassion with a world that yearns for your peace. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** "At the Name of Jesus" UMH#168

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

Children's Message Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Chris Prause

Gracious and Loving God, lead us in ways that lead to life.

Free us to love as completely as you love.

Help us find our worth, not by lifting ourselves above others, but by accepting that we belong to you.

May our fulfillment be found, not in what we hold onto, but in what we freely give in your name.

Free us, dear God, to live without fear, following wherever your Spirit leads.

In the spirit of Christ's compassion, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response "I Need Thee Every Hour" (v1,2&5) UMH#397

***Scripture Reading** Psalm 86:16-17 Chris Prause

¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me;

give your strength to your servant;

save the child of your maidservant.

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor,

so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,

because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

***Gospel Reading** Matthew 10:24-39 Chris Prause

24 "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; **25** it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

Whom to Fear

26 "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. **27** What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. **28** Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.^[a] **29** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. **30** And even the hairs of your head are all counted. **31** So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

32 "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, **33** but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

Not Peace, but a Sword

34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

35 For I have come to set a man against his father,

and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

37 "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, **38** and whoever does not take up the cross and

follow me is not worthy of me. **39** Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Reflecting on God's Message "We are Worth so Very Much!" Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Music "Festive Overture" Bell Choir
by Jason W. Krug

***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

Generous God, your morning sun gives life, your evening breeze refreshes the soul.
As life grows to its fullest this summer, let us give generously and repeatedly.
Through our gifts, may the hungry be fed, the lonely find good friends, and the grieving find comfort.
With these offerings, we offer our own lives, that we may rise again to live with you. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" TFWS#2129

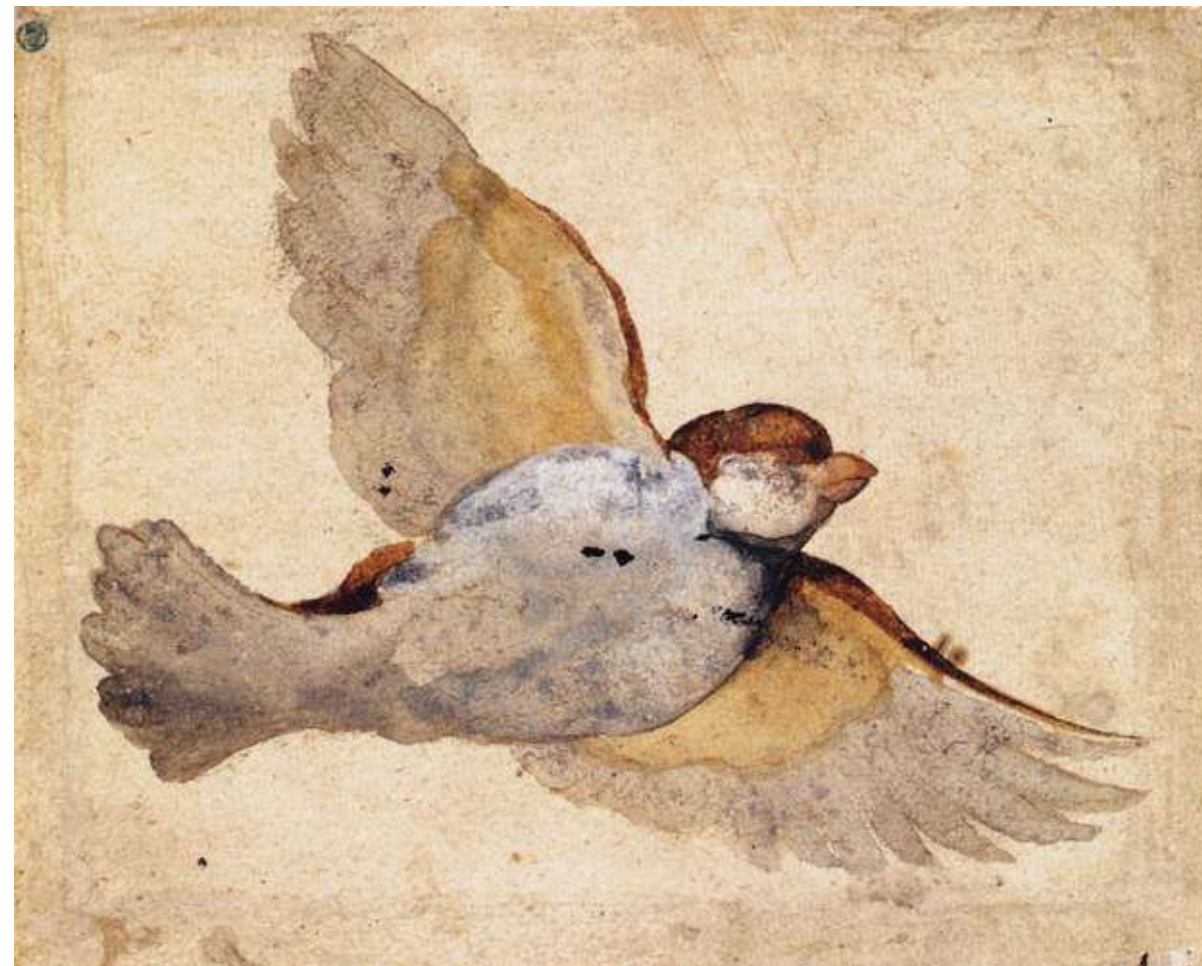
Lord's Prayer

**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

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | www.newmilfordumc.org | 860.354.4596
Pastor Ed Dayton | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams
Liturgist – Chris Prause | Acolyte –
Ministers: All members of the New Milford UM



* Udine, Giovanni da, 1487-1564. Study of a Flying Sparrow

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

6.25.2023 | 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.