



*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:

When you allow God's word to shed light along your garden paths, you prepare the soil of your life to produce beautiful, healthy growth.

May you see the light God, feel the warmth of the Son, and hear the Spirit in the music of the wind.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Harlan Otter

***Call to Worship**

Come in from busy, summertime days to this place of worship.

We come to connect with God's word.

Come in from the stress of everyday life into the light of knowledge.

We come as seekers of truth.

Come into worship with offerings of praise.

We come to hear the word and respond!

***Opening Prayer**

Loving God, gather us into this moment of reverence, celebration, and growth.

As your sons and daughters, we long for renewed faith and meaning in our lives.

Christ's Parable of the Sower lights our path, with its images of rocky ground, tangled thorns, and green shoots.

May the light of your word illuminate our way and become the joy of our hearts! Amen.

May the peace of Christ bring you budding blooms of faith.

***Hymn of Praise**

"O Spirit of the Living God" (v1,2&4)

UMH#539

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Patty Dayton

Merciful One, we often feel the burden of living, as though we've been tossed on rocky soil and left to struggle on our own.

Other days, we throw ourselves too quickly onto wrong paths.

We are tested by hungry birds; we are choked by thorns, and wither in the beating sun.

We are here to choose different paths, confirm new oaths, admit our afflictions, and ask you to give us life again.

Perfect One, show us your ways and bless us with your sacraments, that we may not stray from your road.

Help us hear your word, understand it, and bear your fruit for the world.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

***Hymn of Response**

"Be Thou My Vision"

UMH#451

***Old Testament Reading**

Romans 8:1-11

Patty Dayton

Life in the Spirit

8 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit^[a] of life in Christ Jesus has set you^[a] free from the law of sin and of death. **3** For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin,^[c] he condemned sin in the flesh, **4** so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.^[d] **5** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit^[e] set their minds on the things of the Spirit.^[f] **6** To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit^[g] is life and peace. **7** For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, **8** and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit,^[h] since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. **10** But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit^[i] is life because of righteousness. **11** If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus^[j] from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through^[k] his Spirit that dwells in you.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Luke 10:25-38

Patty Dayton

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.^[a] "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" **26** He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" **27** He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." **28** And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

29 But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" **30** Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. **31** Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. **32** So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. **34** He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. **35** The next day he took out two denarii, gave them

to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' **36** Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" **37** He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him.^[2]

Reflecting on God's Message "Romans, Chapter 8, and Starts With..." Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem Harlan Otter

***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

Just as your word is a light to our path, Holy One, may our offering of praise be a light to the world.

In this season of fruitful gardens, help us share bountiful harvests of our own making.

Whether our offering be of our time, wealth, or prayer, receive and multiply our gifts through the glory of your love. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** "Hymn of Promise" UMH#707

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 – Patty Dayton | Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



* Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890. The Sower III (version 2)

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

7.16.2023 | 9:00 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.