



*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:

Good things come to those who wait. Like seeds buried in the ground, God's love bursts forth in the fullness of time to bring new life and new possibilities.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit Harlan Otter

***Call to Worship** Bonnie Weed

Sing God's praise.

Give thanks to the Lord above.

Seek the Lord and trust God's strength.

Proclaim God's wonderful works.

Live in the Spirit of love and grace.

Give thanks for Christ's marvelous love.

***Opening Prayer**

Spirit of God, you intercede for us with sighs too deep for words.

When all seems lost, you heal our hearts and give us strength to carry on.

Set our hearts and minds on you, Great Spirit, that we may know your abiding presence and your never-failing love. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** "I Love Thy Kingdom Lord" UMH#540

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

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Bonnie Weed

Loving God, as we seek you, search our hearts and ease our troubled spirits.

Where we are frightened and unsure of your love, restore us with the assurance of your grace.

Even when we give up too easily, we long for the courage to reach for new beginnings.

We yearn to know deep in our bones that nothing in heaven or on earth can separate us from your great love. Amen.

Words of Assurance Pastor Ed

***Hymn of Response** "Bring forth the kingdom" (v1.2&4) TFWS#2190

***1st Reading** Psalm 105:1-11 Bonnie Weed

God's Faithfulness to Israel

1 O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wonderful works.

3 Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

4 Seek the LORD and his strength;

seek his presence continually.

5 Remember the wonderful works he has done,

his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,

6 O offspring of his servant Abraham,[^a]

children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

7 He is the LORD our God;

his judgments are in all the earth.

8 He is mindful of his covenant forever,

of the word that he commanded for a thousand generations,

9 the covenant that he made with Abraham,

his sworn promise to Isaac,

10 which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,

to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

11 saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan

as your portion for an inheritance."

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading** Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 Bonnie Weed

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

31 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; **32** it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

The Parable of the Yeast

33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with[^a] three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

Three Parables

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; **46** on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; **48** when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. **49** So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the

evil from the righteous **50** and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

51 “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” **52** And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Reflecting on God’s Message “Making Fizzy Water.” Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem Harlan Otter

***Doxology** “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

Offering Prayer Pastor Ed

God, you bless us with gifts of love and moments of grace and mercy.
For this earth and its bounty, we give you our thanks.
For our lives and for the opportunity to share them with those we love,
we offer you our praise.
Bless the gifts we lay before you, that they may be signs of your loving kingdom to a world awaiting good news.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** “O Day of God, Draw Nigh” (v1.2&5) UMH#730

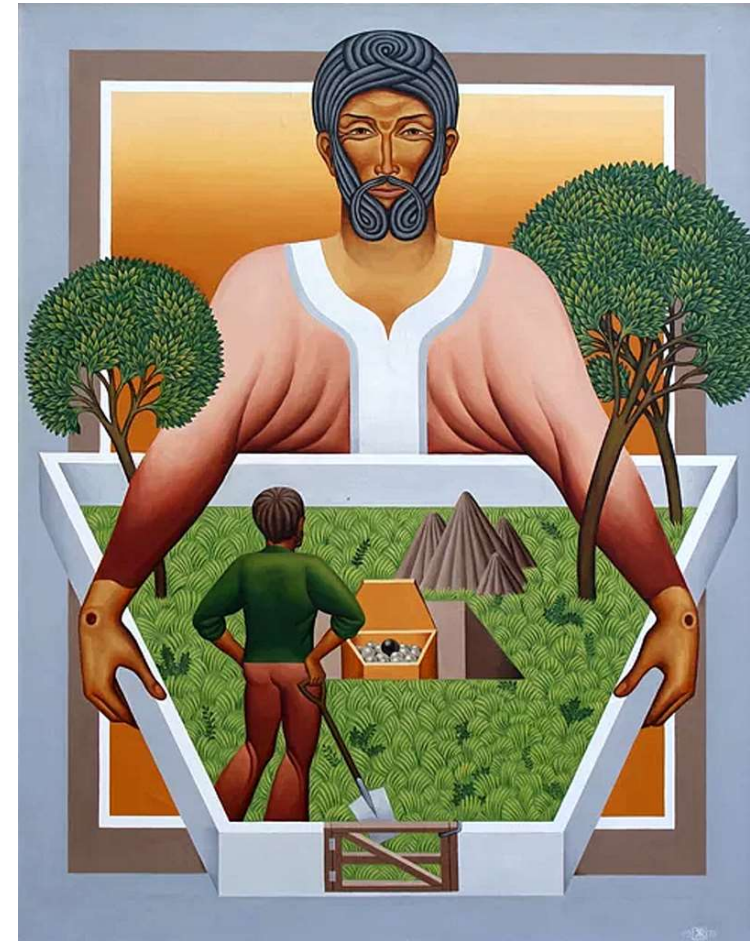
Lord’s Prayer

**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.
And lead us not 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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Pastor Ed Dayton | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams
Liturgist – Bonnie Weed | Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



* Koenig, Peter. Treasure in the Field, from Art in the Christian Tradition

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

7.30.2023 | 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.