



\*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:**

Embrace the yoke of Christ's love. For Christ's yoke is easy and his burden is light.

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit** Harlan Otter

**\*Call to Worship** Pat Tripp

Christ calls those who are weary and heavy laden.

**In Christ, we find rest.**

Christ calls us to bear his yoke and learn from him.

**In Christ, we see God's ways.**

Christ is gentle and humble in heart.

**In Christ, we know God's love.**

Come, for Christ calls us here.

**\*Opening Prayer**

You have walked many miles with us, O God.

You have comforted and strengthened us along the way.

Keep us on your path, for we easily lose our way.

As we learn to live in your ways, help us choose the cause of justice and righteousness.

Amen.

**\*Hymn of Praise** "To God be the Glory" UMH#98

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

**WE HEAR THE WORD**

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)** Pat Tripp

Merciful God, we do not understand why we do the things we do.

Forgive our foolish ways.

Give us the strength and the courage to bear your yoke and to heed your call.

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

**Words of Assurance** Pastor Ed

**\*Hymn of Response** "Be Thou My Vision" UMH#451

**\*Old Testament Reading** Romans 7:15-25a Pat Tripp

**15** I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. **16** Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. **17** But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. **18** For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. **19** For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. **20** Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

**21** So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. **22** For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, **23** but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. **24** Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? **25** Thanks be to God<sup>[a]</sup> through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.

*(Musical Interlude)*

**\*Gospel Reading** Matthew 11:16-19 & 25-30 Pat Tripp

**16** "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

**17** 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

**18** "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; **19** the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."<sup>[a]</sup>

**Jesus Thanks His Father**

**25** At that time Jesus said, "I thank<sup>[a]</sup> you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; **26** yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.<sup>[b]</sup> **27** All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

**28** "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Reflecting on God's Message "Rest for the Weary" 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

Generous God, may these gifts celebrate your name among the nations.  
May the lives we live celebrate your name for all time and all generations. Receive these offerings as signs of our praise, both now and forevermore. Amen.

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

\*Sending Hymn "How Firm a Foundation"(v1,2&5) UMH#529

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 – Pat Tripp  
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



\* Tanner, Henry Ossawa, 1859-1937. Thankful

# Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

## 7.9.2023 | 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.*