



\*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**

Patty Jacobson

**Words to Ponder:**

Jesus called to his friends as they were rocked by fear:

“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Find shalom and rest in the midst of daily anxiety.

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

Patty Jacobson

**\*Call to Worship**

O give thanks to the Lord!

**Holy One, we come with thanks on our lips.**

Sing to God, sing praises!

**Rise up your song in our souls.**

Tell of God's wonderful works!

**Our hearts find joy in seeking you.**

Seek the Lord and claim God's strength!

**We grow strong in your power and might.**

Remember all that God has done!

**You shape our lives through every challenge.**

Praise the Lord!

**We praise you, Lord!**

**\*Opening Prayer**

Eternal God, in visions and dreams, you offer us hope for a new tomorrow.

Amidst life's storms and raging waters, be with us in our time of need.

Reveal to us the great works we are capable of, that we may rise above our narrow purposes, and be of service to the world.

Bless our journeys, that it may be said of us:

“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

**\*Hymn of Praise**

“When Morning Gilds the Sky”

UMH#185

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

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

Pat Tripp

We hear this morning the dramatic story of Joseph being thrown into a pit and then sold into slavery by his brothers.

We too have known what it is to be betrayed.

We too have known the feel of a pit, of being trapped and afraid.

We too have been pulled in directions we do not wish to go.

As we hear Joseph's story this morning, we honor our own stories of pain and grief. Let us pray.

Lord of all our journeys, like Joseph's brothers, we too find expedient ways to get rid of our problems;

we too have cracks in our own families that deepen with every unkind word and the rejection of those we should love.

God of hope, like Joseph, we too can find ourselves victims of violence, trapped in the dark, dragged against our will;

we too can feel abandoned by those who should love us.

In this quiet space of worship, we gather up every thread of pain and lay them in your warm embrace,

placing our trust in you alone.

We are your family.

We belong to you.

Wash us in your forgiveness and your strength and hold us in your love. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

Pastor Ed

**\*Hymn of Response**

“This is my Father's World”

UMH#144

**\*1st Reading**

Psalm 133

Pat Tripp

**The Blessedness of Unity**

*A Song of Ascents.*

**1** How very good and pleasant it is

when kindred live together in unity!

**2** It is like the precious oil on the head,

running down upon the beard,

on the beard of Aaron,

running down over the collar of his robes.

**3** It is like the dew of Hermon,

which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

*(Musical Interlude)*

**\*Gospel Reading**

Matthew 14:22-33

Pat Tripp

**Jesus Walks on the Water-**

**22** Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. **23** And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, **24** but by this time the boat, battered by

the waves, was far from the land,<sup>[a]</sup> for the wind was against them. **25** And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. **26** But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. **27** But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

**28** Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” **29** He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. **30** But when he noticed the strong wind,<sup>[b]</sup> he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” **31** Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” **32** When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. **33** And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

**Reflecting on God’s Message** “Have No Fear.” Pastor Ed

**Prayers of the People**

**Invitation of the Offering** Pastor Ed

**Offertory Anthem** Patty Jacobson

**\*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

Through our struggles, you carve out hope.

Through our suffering, you give us gifts—gifts not just for us, but to give away.

Gracious, almighty God, receive the fruit of our struggles and the pain of our suffering.

Receive our lives, our whole lives, and every step on our journeys, that we might shine with your glory in all our endeavors. Amen.

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**\*Sending Hymn** “How Great Thou Art” UMH#77

**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.**

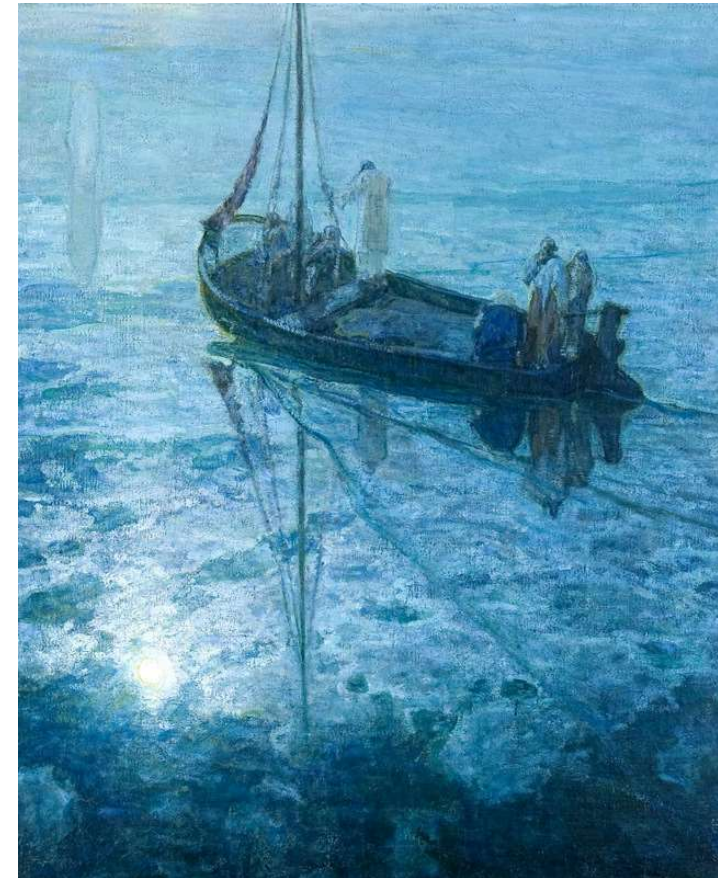
**Benediction**

**Postlude** Harlan Otter

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Pastor Ed Dayton | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams

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



\*Tanner, Henry Ossawa, 1859-1937. Disciples See Christ Walking on the Water

# Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

**8.13.2023 | 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.**