



\*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 our faith is at its weakest, God struggles with us—  
not to punish, but to bless us, if we have the courage to ask.

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit** Harlan Otter

**\*Call to Worship** Mary Praise

L: Welcome to worship this day.

**P: Thank you. We're glad to be here.**

L: Some have come seeking; some have come struggling

**P: Lord, be with each one of us today. Feed our hearts and souls with your transforming love.**

L: God is truly with you all today, guiding, lifting, feeding, restoring your souls.

**P: Praise be to God who continually abides with us. AMEN.**

**\*Opening Prayer**

Even when our faith falters, we will not let you go, O God.

Even though we are ashamed by our lack of faith, we will not let you go.

Because you meet us in our utmost need, we will not let you go.

Strive with us until dawn, O Lord, we will not let you go.

We need your blessing now more than ever. we will not let you go. Amen.

**\*Hymn of Praise** "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown"(v1,2&4) UMH#386

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

WE HEAR THE WORD

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)** Mary Praise

God of wonder and mystery, you struggle with us when our faith is weakest,  
yet you do not overcome us; you meet us in our weakness, yet you do not humble us with your  
strength.

In dark nights of the soul, and when the needs of others seem too great,  
you always stand us back on our feet.

When we face overwhelming odds and yearn to find an easy way out,  
you open new vistas of faithful living.

Stay with us when we have need of you, O God, and bless us in our struggles, that we might be a  
blessing for others in need. Amen.

**Words of Assurance** Pastor Ed

**Hymn of Response** "Let Us Break Bread Together" UMH#618

**Scripture Reading** Psalm 17:1-7 Mary Praise

**Prayer for Deliverance from Persecutors**

*A Prayer of David.*

**1** Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry;  
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

**2** From you let my vindication come;  
let your eyes see the right.

**3** If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,  
if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;  
my mouth does not transgress.

**4** As for what others do, by the word of your lips  
I have avoided the ways of the violent.

**5** My steps have held fast to your paths;  
my feet have not slipped.

**6** I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;  
incline your ear to me; hear my words.

**7** Wondrously show your steadfast love,  
O savior of those who seek refuge  
from their adversaries at your right hand.

*(Interlude)*

**\*Gospel Reading** Matthew 14:13-21 Mary Praise

**Feeding the Five Thousand**

**13** Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself.  
But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. **14** When he went  
ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. **15** When it  
was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now  
late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for  
themselves." **16** Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to  
eat." **17** They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." **18** And he said, "Bring  
them here to me." **19** Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves  
and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the  
disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. **20** And all ate and were filled, and they took

up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. **21** And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**Reflecting on God's Message** "How Much is Enough?" 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

Source of Compassion, you meet our needs.  
May our gifts become loaves and fish for those who hunger.  
May our offerings become love and light for those who feel lost and afraid.  
Bless our lives and our ministries, that we may be a people who share our abundance with those who live in want.  
In our living and in our giving, may the world be fed and made whole again.  
Amen.

COMMUNION

**Communion Anthem** "One Bread, One Body" UMH#620

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

**\*Sending Hymn** "Let Us Be Bread"(x2) TFWS#2260

**Benediction**

**Postlude** Harlan Otter



\* Artoklasia, or Breaking of Bread service, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*

# Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

## 8.6.2023 | 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.**

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Liturgist – Mary Prause  
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*